

TOMORROW

Can the United States ever bring peace to the Middle East? As Israel and Lebanon sign the latest in the long line of American-backed peace plans for the region, and Mr Philip Habib, Mr Reagan's special envoy, heads for Damascus, Edward Mortimer assesses the strengths and weaknesses of US diplomacy. Who are the key personal advisers around Labour leader Michael Foot as he sets out on the campaign trail? In the second part of Spectrum's special election series Nicholas Wapshott provides some surprising answers. Plus the first shots from John Partee in his election column on behalf of the Alliance. Roger Scruton's defence of South Africa and Suzy Menkes on the return of fun to fashion.

Collapse of walls risk to houses

Many homes in several parts of Britain are at risk because of corrosion in the ties that hold cavity walls together. In extreme cases there is a possibility of walls collapsing, and the necessary repairs can cost up to £20,000. **Page 3**

Chile protests

More than 100 arrests have been made in Chile after last week's violence prompted by growing frustration over the free-enterprise policies introduced by President Pinochet since Allende's overthrow. **Page 6**

Burial find

A couple with a metal detector have found a burial site on a farm on the South Downs which experts think could shed new light on the period after the Roman exodus. **Page 3**

Stern sit-in

Stern journalists are continuing to occupy the magazine's Hamburg offices in protest at the appointment of two right-wing editors. **Page 5**

Marbles spirit

Lord Elgin said he approved of the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece if it was part of a worldwide attempt to recreate and recapture the spirit of Parthenon architecture. **Page 3**

Brief car boom

British car sales, after a brief and unexpected boom, will begin to fall in the next few months, according to the DRV Europe research group. **Page 17**

Cruise threats

Threats have been made by telephone against Tarmac, the company which is building silos for cruise missiles at Greenham Common air base. **Page 2**

Stores battle

Linford, the supermarket group, said it would match a £40m increased offer from Safeway for the Key Markets chain. **Page 17**

Merger move

Delegates at the public employees' union conference will be asked to take steps to encourage a merger with the health service union. **Page 2**

Etna rethink

Scientists and technicians were considering the use of bulldozers in attempts to stop the lava flow from Mount Etna, after the partial failure of explosives. **Page 5**

Monaco winner

Koke Roseberg, the Finnish world champion, drove his British-built Cosworth Williams to victory in the Monaco Grand Prix. **Page 19**

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Thatcher will fly by Concorde to Williamsburg

● The Prime Minister has decided to fly by Concorde to the Williamsburg summit on May 28, interrupting her campaign.

● Labour has selected Mr John Tilley to fight Bermondsey, the seat lost in February by Mr Peter Tatchell.

● "The curse of mass unemployment" will be the main feature of Labour's attack on the Tory record, Mr Foot said yesterday.

● Mrs Barbara Castle, the former Labour minister, asks whether the Iron Lady is losing her mettle (Page 10).

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister has decided to interrupt her election campaign to attend the economic summit of the seven main Western economic powers at Williamsburg, Virginia, at the end of May. But she will fly by Concorde, leaving London two days later than was first planned, and return about twelve hours earlier than planned.

An announcement confirming that she has resolved her doubts is expected soon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher has several times said publicly that she wanted to attend, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, have strongly advised it.

But the Conservative Party's campaign planners were nervous at the prospect of her being absent from the country for several days within two weeks of polling day. That and her natural caution have combined to delay a public statement. At first Mrs Thatcher was to have paid a two-day official visit to Washington before going on to Williamsburg. Those arrangements were cancelled last week.

The travel plans now agreed between Conservative Central Office and Downing Street entail an outward flight by Concorde to Washington on Saturday, May 28, and a return flight, also by Concorde, via New York on the evening of Monday, May 30.

That will mean the loss of only one day's campaigning, the Saturday, because the Conservatives by tradition hesitate to appear on the hustings on Sunday; the Monday, being a

round-trip ticket will cost rather more than £2,400.

Mr Michael Foot criticized Mrs Thatcher yesterday for indecision over attending the Williamsburg summit to which Labour attached much importance. The party wanted to see a big effort there to get the world back to full employment in international as well as national terms, he said.

He criticized her for saying, in an interview with *The Times* last week, that she did not expect to see "some new formula" agreed there to get the world out of recession.

Of the main parties, the Conservatives will be last in the field with their manifesto, which will be published on Wednesday. That has not inhibited their campaigning, however.

Central Office has no knowledge of any platform speeches by prominent Conservatives today; nevertheless, they are trooping to the broadcasting studios to open fire on the Labour manifesto as soon as it appears this morning.

Mrs Thatcher will be interviewed on ITN's *News at One* and *News at Ten*; Mr Cecil Parkinson will be on BBC radio's *World at One*.

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public holiday, is regarded by all the parties as likely to prove a wasted day.

Sir Geoffrey, Mr Pym, and officials will be travelling in the Royal Air Force VC10 which would have carried the Prime Minister, so the cost of Concorde tickets for her and her immediate staff will be borne by the Conservative Party. Each

Tatchell 'successor' named

Mr John Tilley, whose present Lambeth Central seat disappears under boundary changes, was selected last night to fight the Southwark, Bermondsey seat for Labour. In Nottingham South, Mr Ken Coates, who was once expelled from the Labour Party for his views, was chosen.

A veteran left-wing campaigner, Mr Coates, returned from the European Disarmament Conference in Berlin to take part in the selection procedure for the new constituency.

A university lecturer, he had been active in the running of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and the Institute for Workers' Control. In 1965, while president of Nottingham City Labour Party, he was expelled from party membership after attacking Labour Party policy on Vietnam. He was reinstated after five years.

Mr Coates faced five other candidates in the selection conference, including Mr Eric Moonman, the former Labour MP for Basildon. Mr Michael English, who was Labour MP for Nottingham West, which disappears under reorganization, decided not to contest the seat.

Mr Tilley, aged 41, and an MP since a by-election in April 1978, sought the Southwark, Bermondsey nomination after the decision by Mr Peter Tatchell last month not to reapply for it. Mr Tatchell lost a bitterly-contested by-election in the south London seat in February to Mr Simon Hughes of the Liberal-SDP Alliance.



Mr Coates (left) and Mr Tilley

Foot calls for 'spirit of Darlington'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot gave notice yesterday that what he called the "curse of mass unemployment" would be the principal feature of Labour's record during the general election campaign. Unemployment could only be tackled by the "drastic" methods contained in his party's strategy for expanding the economy, he said.

Labour was going to change the opinion polls, which were "not very agreeable at the moment," Mr Foot declared. What would happen over the coming weeks was that Labour would "get the spirit of Darlington up and down the country", the spirit which had changed the whole atmosphere in the course of a campaign.

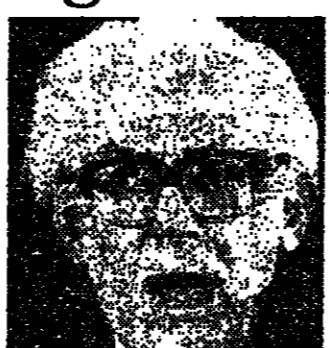
On the eve of the publication of the Labour manifesto, Mr Foot set out to rebut the charge that his party's plans for a multi-million pound reflation of the economy in its first year would lead to fast-rising inflation, and defend the increased government borrowing that would be required to implement it.

Mr Foot said that reflation need not be accompanied by inflation if it was accomplished properly. Other countries had big budget deficits but their inflation rate had not risen.

"It should be the aim of policies to control inflation but above all else to deal with unemployment," he said on the BBC radio programme, *The World This Week*.

Mr Foot said the money for Labour's alternative programme would come from North Sea oil revenues, which he said the Government was "pouring down the drain" on mass unemployment, from the reduced amount that would need to be paid out in unemployment benefit with the creation of jobs, and from borrowing.

"If we do not tackle the problem in this drastic long-term method, we will have unemployment at four million to five million for many years



Mr Michael Foot: Drastic methods needed

ahead. If that happens it will destroy everything else."

Mr Foot predicted that Mrs Thatcher would be promising to cut during the election. "The short sharp reason why Mrs Thatcher has not carried out the pledge she gave at the last election to cut taxes was because she has had to increase them to pay for mass unemployment."

The Labour Party was not in favour of scrapping Britain's defences, "as the Tories lyingly say." Labour was not in favour of scrapping the NATO alliance, but it was in favour of establishing a non-nuclear defence policy.

If cruise missiles were deployed in Britain it would make the achievement of any future arms-control agreement "well-nigh impossible," Mr Foot said. "We are determined not to go for a policy which would stop arms control agreements being made," he added. "We are determined to lead the way in stopping the nuclear arms race."

Mr Foot said that there were some things on which the Russians were talking sense. To say that they did not want to secure nuclear superiority over the United States was a sensible approach. "It would mean an appalling burden on their economy," he said.

Mr Foot was at pains to emphasize that the defence policy to be outlined in Labour's manifesto today had the agreement of Mr Denis Healey, his deputy leader. "We have discussed together, we have worked together,"



Keep Falklands out of election, says Nott

Sir John Nott, the former defence Secretary, said yesterday that it would be deplorable if the Falklands war figured in the general election campaign.

His appeal is apparently directed as much to his former Cabinet colleagues, including Mrs Thatcher, not to make political capital out of the British victory, as to members

of the Opposition who attacked the Government's handling of the Falklands issue.

Sir John, photographed at his farm in Cornwall, told *The Times* in his first interview since he left Mrs Thatcher's cabinet: "The Falklands has happened and it was a success but I would not want it to figure in the general election campaign."

He said it had contributed importantly to the restoration of self-confidence in Britain, which was already well under way when the Falklands crisis began, but that the loss of life that resulted was a tragedy and should not become a party political issue during the election campaign. Photograph: David Breachley.

Arms race is US fault - Mortimer

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Scarborough

Mr James Mortimer, general secretary of the Labour Party, yesterday laid the blame for the acceleration of the nuclear arms race firmly at the door of the United States and President Reagan in particular. In a departure from his peripatetic text on the issue he told the National Union of Public Employees' conference in Scarborough: "The initiative for the latest round in the arms race comes primarily from the US, and we should recognize that."

When the US and the Soviet Union concluded the draft strategic arms limitation Treaty four years ago, the Soviet Government had ratified it but the American Congress, prompted by politicians such as Mr Reagan, had declined to do so.

"We believe that there should be an independent British initiative," Mr Mortimer said. "The Russians and Americans had sufficient nuclear weapons to blow up the world several times over and the addition of nuclear weapons by Britain did not add the cause of peace."

"All it does is provide justification for the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world. If it is good enough for Britain, it is good enough for Argentina, East Germany, Israel and the Arab states. It would justify the possession of nuclear weapons over and the addition of nuclear bases in many other countries," Mr Mortimer said.

He added: "The existence of nuclear weapons and bases, particularly US bases in Britain, ensures that in the event of war we become an immediate target for annihilation. We have better things to do with the scarce resources in Britain than to add to nuclear weapons and bases."

NUPE workers are preparing a campaign of civil disobedience to disrupt the Government's nuclear defence exercises. Their leaders agreed yesterday to encourage the establishment of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament groups in workplaces.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly to call on 700,000 employees of the public services to cooperate with any civil defence exercises and promised union protection for conscientious objectors.

Pym wants deal on rebate by June 9

From Ian Murray, Gymnich

The British Government wants agreement on the size of its 1983 EEC budget rebate before the election on June 9. Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, made this clear to his community counterparts at their informal meeting in the 17th century castle here over the weekend.

He left no doubt that he would be looking for a firm commitment for a rebate of about £800m of the £1,200m Britain is expected to owe the community this year. And he appeared more confident that he would succeed than he has for some time.

After the meeting he said that because a general election was pending it seems to be making negotiations easier. But if Mr Pym was "reasonably encouraged", there was an ominous warning from M Claude Cheysson, the French minister, that there could be no short-term deal unless there was major progress on solving the tangled long-term future financing agreement for the community.

The major difficulties surrounding negotiations on the long term deal make it difficult to imagine real progress before the Stuttgart European summit on June 6.

West Germany, now holding the presidency of the Council of Ministers, is therefore making a last effort to try to reconcile the many differences before the foreign ministers meet again. Over the week to come Herr Hans Werner Lautenschlager, the junior West German Foreign Minister, will be touring EEC capitals to try to discover the answer to a number of specific questions before next week's meeting.

There seemed little doubt that the British Government intended to be firm in its demands. Mr Pym told his colleagues that it was a pity things were coming to a head, but this was because they had failed to honour last year's agreement to settle the problem by last November. He said after the meeting that Britain wanted to have figures agreed at next week's meeting which could be agreed by the Stuttgart summit.

Continued on back page, col 5

Papal envoy stands by CND attack

By Nicholas Timmins

Archbishop Bruno Heim, the Pope's representative in Britain, appears determined to stand by his attack on Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, despite the anger it has caused.

Archbishop Heim, who is convalescing in a clinic in West Germany after an operation in Britain, could not be contacted yesterday, but Mr Peter Bander, a friend of the pro-nuncio, and his publisher, said that the archbishop had told him he "did not wish to withdraw a single comma" from his statement.

Mr Bander, who emphasized that he was not acting as a spokesman for the archbishop, said he spoke to Mr Heim on Saturday, after details of a letter the archbishop is sending to members of the public who write to him appeared in *The Times*.

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, went out of his way at the weekend to support Mr Kent. He said: "I have great respect for Mr Kent personally and for his integrity and commitment to peace."

He had renewed Mr Kent's permission to work for CND, he said, and there could be no difference among Christians over the ultimate aim of preventing nuclear war.

Mr Heim's letter said that whether those advocating unilateralism were consciously sharing the Soviet ideology, were "useful idiots" or "blinded idealists" would have to be judged in individual cases, "even in that of Bruce Kent".

The Roman Catholic Bishop in East London, Mr Victor Guzzardi, said the pro-nuncio did not have the right to express the views in the public way, he did.

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*Except Saturday nights to Johannesburg



The outlook is for rain followed by rain

By Clive Cookson

The Meteorological Office weather computers foresee no end to the steady stream of Atlantic depressions which have already made this spring one of the wettest on record.

One large system of low pressure is expected to drift across Britain during the week, keeping up the showers that have saturated the country for the past two months, and the computer-generated weather maps show yet another low moving in next weekend.

The powerful new Cyber computer at the Met Office in Bracknell has been issuing remarkably accurate predictions this year, up to a week

ahead, but it is not programmed to look beyond that, and official long-range forecasts are no longer issued. Some unofficial forecasters see the rains lasting well into June - and that is as far as any reputable weatherman will go.

Yesterday, heavy showers moved up the eastern side of the country, giving the London Weather Centre another half inch of rain and bringing May's total so far to 1.5 inches - close to the average of 1.8 inches for the whole month. April's rainfall, 3.8 inches, was a new record for that month.

Official meteorological spokesmen remain anxious to play down the peculiarity of the

wet weather. It is just an ordinary fluctuation of the sort that gives Britain some sort of abnormal weather every year, they say, no special factor, like dust from Mexico's El Chichon volcano, is required to explain our soggy spring. The atmospheric circulation is bringing excessive rainfall to the whole of Western Europe, while Russia basks in unusual warmth and sunshine.

For an unusual spell of unpleasant weather, this wet spring is behaving quite well. The rain is falling regularly day after day, normally in manageable quantities, rather than in a few great deluges, so the water has a chance to run

off the land without causing serious flooding.

Because of the wet weather a lot of farmland is too waterlogged to bear tractors and equipment, and livestock and vegetable farmers are suffering particular hardship.

The AA yesterday reported that floods closed the A13 at Stanford le Hope, Essex, for two hours and several minor roads in the county were blocked too. The A120 at Bishops Cleeve was passable only with extreme care.

The bookmakers William Hill yesterday reported a flood of money for various weather bets.

Forecast, back page

War the only way, warning by Arafat

Damascus (Reuters) - Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, yesterday said war was now the only way to change the balance of power in the Middle East, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

The agency said Mr Arafat was speaking to military officials of his Fatah group and to other PLO officials in Damascus.

"Emergence from the present Arab impasse would be by adoption of the fighting decision and war on an official Arab level to change the balance of power in the region", the agency quoted Mr Arafat as saying.

"Effective war on the practical level is the only available means now of recharting the political map through an Arab military movement supporting the Palestinian-Lebanese national struggle."

The PLO would upset "imperialist American plans and say 'no' to Reagan and the programmes of his aggressive administration for hegemony over the Arab region and control of its destinies", Mr Arafat said.

"The PLO will resume its role of struggle to rehabilitate the Arab situation and emerge from the current Arab impasse."

It was one of the toughest statements Mr Arafat had made in several months and came amid tension in eastern Lebanon, where Israeli troops are facing Syrian and PLO forces.

Mr Arafat's remarks appeared to reflect his recent shift towards hardline Syria and away from moderate Jordan, with whom his talks on Middle East peace efforts broke down last month.

His statement also coincided with warnings in the official Syrian media that Syria would try to torpedo a deal for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, expected to be signed this week.

Commenting on reports of a split among Palestinian fighters in eastern Lebanon, Mr Arafat said two visits he had made to their positions on Friday and Saturday had shown that "all Palestinian ranks and leadership are completely disciplined and committed to the unified Palestinian decision and Palestinian national unity".

Wafa reported earlier that Mr Arafat intended to make more trips to his men's positions in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon. His visit on Friday was the first since he quit Beirut last August during the Israeli siege.

● MAJAYOUN: Major Saad Haddad, the Israel-backed militia leader, said yesterday that the Lebanese Government would declare a "war of Liberation" against Syria if it refused to withdraw its estimated 40,000 troops from eastern and northern Lebanon.

Syrians dig in, page 5
Leading article, page 13

Merger talks planned for 'super union' to unite a million

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A new "super union" that would unite a million workers in government employment is being planned.

Delegates to the policy conference of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) will be urged today by their leaders to approach the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) for a closer working relationship in the wake of last year's marathon National Health service strike.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Nupe, said last night that such a step would be a "logical move" for two public service unions seeking to end low pay and forestall job cuts and the "privatization" of services.

Informal contacts on the setting up of a liaison committee between the two unions were held just before the recent death of Mr Albert Spanswick, general secretary of Cohse, and those discussions were regarded as the first step towards a possible amalgamation.

The name of the new union would probably be the Confederation of Public Employees. If it is established it will represent nearly a million workers in the NHS, local government, universities, the water industry and similar services.

It would be in size with the giant engineering union and become the third largest affiliate to the Labour Party, with a block vote of about 800,000.

The motion being discussed today comes from seven hospital and district branches of Nupe. It calls on delegates to recognize that the experience of last year's pay dispute "has

highlighted the need for considerable reduction in the trade union and staff organizations operating in the NHS."

The dispute demonstrated the desire for maximum unity and joint action by most NHS workers.

The motion continues: "Conference therefore calls upon the executive council to begin positive negotiations through the officers of the TUC on the question of Nupe's amalgamation with other health service trade unions."

"In particular, conference proposes that the union immediately starts discussions and negotiations with Cohse on the possibilities of an amalgamation or federation into one union."

Similar proposals from branches will be discussed at the Cohse policy conference in mid-June. Industrial logic points towards a merger but there are some political differences between the two unions, with Nupe supporting the left within the Labour party on most issues while Cohse is traditionally regarded as a right-wing union.

Cohse's general secretary, Mr David Williams, was elected to the Labour Party national executive committee with right-wing support, while Nupe's deputy general secretary, Mr John Sawyer, won a seat on the executive with left-wing backing.

However, minor changes in the composition of Nupe's executive, which yesterday confirmed the left in its strong position, are unlikely to affect the merger discussions.

Union may black rig firm to aid dismissed divers

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

Sub-Sea Offshore, the American firm which dismissed 26 divers at the weekend for taking part in a sit-in on a North Sea production platform, has been threatened with industrial action by the National Union of Seamen (NUS).

The union says it will shut down 14 Sub-Sea Offshore work sites and black three support vessels unless the firm management enters into talks on union recognition by tomorrow.

Mr Warren Duncan, the union's spokesman for divers, said he had teleaxed the com-

pany last week suggesting a cooling-off period, followed by discussions over union recognition and the fate of the 16 divers. "If the deadline is not met, we have only one choice, we would call an official dispute," he added.

The dismissed divers are all members of the Professional Divers' Association. Their sit-in, over union recognition and bonuses, ended last week after interunion arguments and a court interdict ordering them to leave Chevron's Ninian North-east platform.

Odhams printing plant in Watford to be closed

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of the British Printing and Communications Corporation, has announced the closure of Odhams plant in Watford, Hertfordshire, which employs 1,600 workers.

It will be merged with Sun Printers, also in Watford, to create, Mr Maxwell said, "one of the most competitive, varied and efficient printing services in the world".

The company had agreed with four unions representing engineers, electricians and printers on the "orderly closure" of Odhams and the creation of a new division known as Odhams-Sun Printers.

Timex settlement fails

By Our Labour Reporter

On Friday, the company postponed court action to remove the occupying workers, but it will now press for a writ when the hearing at the Edinburgh Court of Session reconvenes on Wednesday.

Occupation of the factory began when 120 employees refused to accept compulsory redundancy supported by 220 others dismissed last week. The company offered to rescind the dismissals and enforce redundancies for 90 days while voluntary severances were sought. If sufficient volunteers did not come forward, redundancy would become compulsory again.

Miners at Cardowan colliery, near Glasgow, were unrepresented yesterday over the rough handling they gave Mr Albert Wheeler, the Scottish National Coal Board director.

About a hundred voted overwhelmingly according to official dispute to fight the proposed closure of their pit at Shotts, near Glasgow. A branch meeting of the national Union of Mineworkers in Glasgow agreed to invoke nationally agreed colliery review procedures.



Campaign commentators: Members of the BBC's team to cover the election photographed on the eve of intensive broadcasting of the campaign. They are (front row, left to right) David Dumbleby, Sue Lawley, Jan Leeming, Robin Day; (back row) John Timpson, John Tusa, Jimmy Young, Nick Ross, Fred Emery, Peter Snow. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Youth jobs publicity to go ahead

By a Staff Reporter

A £1m government advertising campaign for the new Youth Training Scheme is to start today, in spite of Whitehall fears that it may be seen as a large part in Conservative claims to be tackling unemployment.

The television advertising is intended to tell 400,000 youths aged 16 who are due to leave school during the next two months that the Government will pay them £25 a week to train for a year in industry or community projects. The MSC has spent £2m on persuading employers to provide the training.

The scheme is bound to play a large part in Conservative claims to be tackling unemployment; and though the opposition parties support the idea of youth training, this particular scheme has been fiercely attacked by some Labour leaders, including Mr Neil Kinnock, the shadow Education Secretary.

Whitehall fears that the advertising might be seen to be profiting capital for the Tories has been heightened by the fact that Mr David Young, the businessman brought in to run the Manpower Services Commission, is a close political ally of Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, and Sir Keith Joseph.

Mr Young has agreed to remain silent until after the election and cancelled a scheduled appearance at a public event in Sunderland last Tuesday.

● Poverty wages are an important cause of economic wastage and inefficiency as well as hardship and injustice, the Low Pay Unit states in a booklet published today (our Labour Reporter writes).

The unit argues for a legally enforced national minimum wage for the seven million low paid workers who earn less than £90 a week.

The report, *The Case for a National Minimum Wage*, estimates that the number of families forced to rely on family income supplement has doubled since 1979, and it blames government policies for the deteriorating position of the low paid.

● The arrangement contrasts with Mr Maxwell's plans for BPC's plant at Park Royal, in north London, which has been closed by industrial problems in spite of an agreement with national union officials.

Mr Maxwell said that the Odhams agreement, which involves "substantial" numbers of voluntary redundancies, "makes it immediately possible to install web-offset presses and electronic make-up systems".

The company, which turned a £1.2m pre-tax loss in 1981 into a £12.4m profit last year, is turning the old site into an 18-acre industrial estate, with possible provision for a store and industrial use.

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Firm threatened over silos

By Nicholas Timmins

Threats have been made against Tarmac, which is building the Greenham Common cruise missile silos, the company said yesterday.

A telephone call to the company's head office in Bilston, in the West Midlands, warned it of attacks on employees unless the company gives up the contract. A call to one of Tarmac's Yorkshire depots said that trucks would be burnt.

In South Yorkshire tyres have been let down on lorries in Tarmac's livery but driven by owner-drivers, and CND symbols have been daubed on a show house in gloss paint.

A Tarmac spokesman said the telephone calls had come from people "purporting to be supporters of the peace movement. But we would be very surprised if CND were involved in this."

CND is running a campaign against Tarmac and there have been demonstrations outside Tarmac offices, but the company spokesman said: "In our dealings with CND they have always been peaceful and amicable; there has been no hostility."

Mrs Joan Riddock, chairman of CND, said the threats had no connexion with CND.

"We have a working party dealing with the issues of firms involved in nuclear preparations, but that group, like all our other groups, is committed to non-violence and our campaign has never, and will never, endorse violent action, or threats of that nature."

Women from the Greenham Common peace camp launched an appeal for funds yesterday, saying the camp had reached a crisis over its future.

The appeal came after bailiffs evicted the women from land near the base impounded three cars to sell if the women do not pay £1,000 in costs awarded by the High Court and a further £1,000 for the eviction.

Miss Jane Hickman, the women's solicitor, said: "The financial situation at Greenham is extremely serious because the women at the camp have incurred a lot of expenditure on leaflets, transport and recent legal action."

Mrs Helen John, one of the peace women, described the council's move as "legalized theft". One of the impounded cars belonged to a German woman visiting the camp who would not have been involved with the earlier actions, and Mrs John said none of the

cars belonged to women named in the High Court action.

The fund stands at about £2,000 and has made three grants - £250 each to two peace camps and £100 for a Greenham Common woman to obtain counsel's opinion.

Founders of the fund include the Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, secretary of the Methodist Conference and co-chairman of the World Disarmament Campaign. Mr Malcolm Harper, Director of the United Nations Association, and Mrs Joan Riddock, chairman of CND.

● A fund to help people who get into financial difficulties as a result of civil disobedience and non-violent direct action against nuclear bases and other military installations is to be launched.

The Peacemakers Relief Society has been created with the support of the Quakers, peace campaigners and leading figures in CND at a time when direct action against nuclear bases is about to increase.

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Mr Gillham denied that her standing as a local Conservative candidate could affect the general election campaign of Mr Robert Dunn, the Tory MP who was elected to the Dartford seat in the 1979 election with a majority of 1,392.

He said that Miss Barsby became friendly with Mrs Prime while she was a pupil at a local grammar school near Dartford. They had maintained their friendship when Miss Barsby went to live in London and after Mrs Prime married in 1969.

When it was discovered that neither woman had attempted to reveal Prime's espionage activities government legal advisers considered prosecution but found that there was no evidence that either had committed a criminal offence.

Mr Gillham said that Miss Barsby had been in contact with her parents to assure them that she was well, but she had given no indication when she was staying or when she would return to her home in London Road, Dartford.

● A new Conservative government might be prepared to allow more access and information for select committees, which would meet in camera to discuss sensitive material.

Under a Labour government, backbenchers would be pushing at an open door. The party is pledged to enact a statute regulating the secret services, and a select committee to scrutinize them.

● The all-party liaison committee, the body comprising all select committee chairmen, was due to meet last Thursday to discuss the Government's statement, which was contained in a letter to their chairman, Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton. Their meeting was cancelled because of the calling of the general election.

The letter, sent by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, reaffirms the convention that ministers shall not provide Parliament with information on the security and intelligence services, or answer questions about their activities.

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Woman who knew spy stood in local poll

By John Witherow

The woman who was condemned by the Security Commission for not exposing Geoffrey Prime, the spy, stood unsuccessfully as a Conservative candidate in the local elections on May 5.

Miss Dorothy Barsby, who failed to report Prime's spying for the Russians while he was working at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham, won only 92 votes in Swanscombe ward, in Dartford, Kent, and came last in a field of six.

She was proposed by Mr Tony Gillham, chairman of the Dartford Conservative Party, who described her yesterday as "attractive, intelligent and a good conversationalist who was interested in party matters".

Miss Barsby was later selected by a committee to fight a ward that had been a Labour stronghold. "To some extent she was a paper candidate. She was never going to be elected, but some of them, on to better things," Mr Gillham said.

Miss Barsby, aged 34, is a friend of Prime's first wife, Helena, who told her that Prime had confessed to spying for the Russians nine years before he was caught.

Neither woman approached the police and Miss Barsby, a former personnel officer who had lived in Dartford for 18 months, told an M15 investigating officer that she knew of no reason why Prime should not handle secret documents.

The Security Commission described her behaviour as "disgraceful", but Mr Gillham said that it was too early to form a judgment and she had probably left her interrogation by the security officer believing she had answered all his questions.

"When she was interviewed she thought the visiting officer would 'praise' her into telling something about Prime, but instead he asked her about herself. It is very convenient that the officer is now dead and all the mud is now being thrown at Dorothy and Helena and not him," he added.

Mr Gillham denied that her standing as a local Conservative candidate could affect the general election campaign of Mr Robert Dunn, the Tory MP who was elected to the Dartford seat in the 1979 election with a majority of 1,392.

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Science report Aural clue to when whales left the land

By Clive Cookson

The Fossils of ancestral whales which lived on land about 50 million years ago have been found in Pakistan. The discovery, by a group of US paleontologists, seems to solve an important mystery of mammalian evolution: when did whales take to the sea?

The primitive whale fossils, which have been named Pakicetus, were embedded in the rocky hills of the Indus valley. They consist of the back part of a skull and several teeth, including an exceptionally well preserved middle ear.

Professor Philip Gingerich, of the University of Michigan, said that although the skull's structure was clearly that of a whale, its ear was that of an animal living mainly on land. It did not have the directional "sonar" system of modern whales, in which the left and right earbones are isolated from one another.

The remains of Pakicetus were unearthed from sedimentary rocks of continental rather than marine origin. The same strata contained fossils of animals known to live on land, including hoofed mammals.

According to Professor Gingerich, Pakicetus probably lived on the shores of the ancient Tethys Sea, which separated the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. "We speculate that ancestral whales initially were land mammals who, feeding on both meat and fish, colonized the sea shore," he said.

"Enticed by an abundance of fish, they then moved offshore and gradually made their home in the sea." That transition, he added, happened about 50 million and 40 million years ago.

A full-sized Pakicetus skull would have been 18in long and 6in wide, with a wolf-like snout. The shape of the rest of the body is speculative, because no other bones have yet been found, but it was probably at least 6ft long and 300 lb in weight.

Source: *Nature* (vol 220, pp403-406)

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Computer crime at £2m a day

New technology is helping dishonest employees to steal more than £2m a day from their companies, according to the Guarantee Society, a subsidiary of the insurance firm General Accident.

The society said insurance payments for crimes committed by employees in commerce and industry increased by 40 per cent last year. "With the advent of new technology and computerized services, criminal fraud by company employees is becoming increasingly difficult to detect," Mr Douglas Procter, the society's manager, said.

Home Office statistics quoted by the society show that the number of fraud offences in England and Wales increased from 106,671 in 1981 to 123,101 last year.

The society gave an example of fraud a company director who signed cheques drawn in his own name. He balanced the books by forging suppliers' invoices and inflating the stock figures. The loss was £80,000.

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Mr Maxwell said that the Odhams

'Millions' of homes at risk from hidden fault that weakens outer walls

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Millions of homes in the North, in East Anglia, on the South Coast and in other exposed areas are potentially at risk from serious structural faults that have cost owners up to £20,000 to rectify.

Between 1890 and 1940 more than nine million homes were built, many using cavity wall method of construction, which surveys say is beginning to show evidence of faults that can lead to collapsing walls.

It is impossible to be precise about the number of homes affected; cavity wall construction has been in use since the early century, but did not become a widespread method of building until the 1920's.

Some experts believe, however, that as many as half of Britain's 21 million houses have cavity walls. Mr Malcolm Hollis, chartered building surveyor who predicts that by the end of the century about seven million homes will need remedial treatment.

At the heart of the matter are the metal "ties", used to hold the inner and outer sections of wall together. There is growing evidence of serious erosion which renders them useless.

Mr Adrian Jones, a chartered building surveyor with the Sussex firm of King & Chase, says cavity wall tie failure is causing problems "as never before", which could lead to the collapse of many houses built before the Second World War.

"When the ties rust away the walls are left in two halves, each insufficiently strong to stand alone. A house in this condition may be falling apart", Mr Jones said.

"The problem is coming to light now because most houses from before the turn of the century were built with solid walls, so there were no ties to rust. It has taken forty to eighty years for the problem to show itself.

If the defect is caught early enough, then repair costs could be as low as £1,000, which would cover replacement ties or a new type of cavity wall insulating foam which acts as a structural support.

But if the house is structurally unstable then repair for an average three bedroom home can total £20,000.

Although the corrosion of wall ties is regarded as a problem affecting houses built before the Second World War, a spokesman from the Building Research Advisory Bureau said that the defect had been discovered in postwar houses as well.

The first signs were long horizontal cracks in the outer wall, which if unattended would widen. The outer wall can also bulge to the point where it "pops" and collapses.

Householders who believe their homes show signs of possible tie failure should ask a qualified chartered building surveyor to carry out a detailed inspection of the property. But he must have the right equipment, such as fibre optic probes.

It is thought that most insurance policies do not provide cover against tie failure. As Mr Hollis points out it is impossible to get insurance cover against old age, of which this problem is a symptom.

Mr Jones admits that in Sussex he has only come across a handful of homes which were virtually collapsing, but says that many more which show signs of the potentially serious structural problem. He

warns potential buyers of a house built during that period to have the property examined by a structural surveyor.

The problem is not confined to privately owned homes. A council estate in the Aigburth district of Liverpool is suffering from an advanced form of tie failure.

It was only discovered after residents applied to buy their homes. Surveyors showed that the walls were dangerously close to collapsing repair bills could total £18,000.

A spokesman for Liverpool City Council commented last week that tie failure was a common problem in the city; it was not surprising that the tenants had encountered it.

Mr Hollis said that areas particularly exposed to wet and windy conditions were prone to the problem.

"In Liverpool they had enormous problems on council estates with ties that have gone, resulting in the outer wall bowing considerably."

Mr Hollis said that when the ties completely eroded most of the weight was borne by the outer wall, which was not strong enough. In the worse cases, the outer walls collapse.

He believed that at least 5 per cent of houses in the North, in London and on the South Coast which have been inspected show signs of the problem.

Unfortunately, only about one house in 10 is surveyed. So it could be more widespread.

Mr Hollis agreed that probably 5 per cent of all homes with cavity walls in those areas were showing signs of failure.



Pincer movement; Nicholas Johnson, aged two and a half (left) coming face to face with a live Scottish lobster at Billingsgate Market open day in London yesterday. (Photograph John Voos).

Group call for inquiry into sentencing by JPs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Bristol group of Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP) has asked for a judicial inquiry by the European Court of Human Rights into "the maladministration of local justice in England and Wales".

It says that there is no justification for wide variations in sentencing practice by magistrates' courts. That is disclosed, it says, by the compilation during the past decade from Home Office statistics of an annual league table of rates of adult imprisonment by the courts.

The latest figures showed that 1981 was a bad year for fair play, RAP claims. Dorset sent 13.23 per cent of male adult offenders directly to jail, compared with a national average of

9.39 per cent and a low figure of 4.14 per cent in Warwickshire. "Individual benches within county areas provide even more startling contrasts", Newbury, in Berkshire, sent 14 times as many people to prison as the Blyth Valley Bench in Northumberland, 22.6 per cent, compared with 1.6 per cent.

Though RAP has drawn the attention of successive Home Secretaries and Lord Chancellors to the wide variations, "no practical action has been taken to curb the powers which some magistrates abuse with so little concern for the basic rights of their fellow citizens".

RAP says individual cases from Newbury or Dorset cannot be referred to the European Court of Human Rights

Trainee GP miscarries after 75-hour shift

A doctor's union has stepped up its campaign for shorter working hours after a young pregnant trainee doctor was said to have miscarried as a result of over-work. The incident was described in last week's *Doctor* magazine by Dr Jane Bernal, a member of the 5,000-strong Medical Practitioners' Union. She said the trainee doctor working at an inner city children's hospital, who was three months' pregnant, fell ill at the beginning of a 75-hour weekend shift which began at 9am on a Friday.

She asked to go home, but her consultant refused permission because no other doctor was available. Although she was vomiting, and had diarrhoea, she carried on working and treated about 100 patients with no more than an hour's rest at a

stretch. On the Tuesday she had a miscarriage. The article concludes that the case "demonstrates the sort of thing that doctors have put up with for much too long, and why something needs to be done urgently. Clearly neither the hospital nor the Department of Health and Social Security has any intention of doing anything about making sure this sort of thing does not happen."

Dr Bernal, who leads the union's junior doctors' section, said they were demanding a minimum 60-hour working week and the abolition of long weekend shifts.

Dr Bernal said the woman did not want to be named, and did not identify the hospital or health authority, but said the doctor was considering legal action.

Doctors tune in by phone to baby's heart

By Pearce Wright

For ten days, doctors listened to the heart of an unborn baby by telephone because its mother, aged 31, lived 14 miles from the hospital and had no transport. She was also a diabetic who had experienced complications in the latter stages of an earlier pregnancy.

A method of monitoring the baby's progress over the public telephone network was devised by Dr Kevin Dalton, Dr Andrew Dawson and Mr Nigel Gough, an electronics specialist, of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff.

The procedure began after the thirty-fourth week of pregnancy. In spite of the cost of telephone charges, monitoring the patient from home each day cost less than 6 per cent of the daily hospital bed charges and the share of the equipment for examining the baby's heart. Heartbeats arriving at the obstetric unit appeared instantaneously on a computer display screen.

An account of the procedure is described in the current issue of the *British Medical Journal*. Telecardiogram recordings, as they are called, were tried first for short periods on women with no complications and involved five people at home and ten in hospital.

A small "squawk box" is placed on the woman's abdominal wall.

Made by Sonicaid, a specialist firm of medical equipment suppliers, it consists of an electronic detector and a loudspeaker. The mouthpiece of the telephone is placed beside the loudspeaker for the heartbeat to be transmitted.

In the case quoted, the daily link between home and hospital continued until irregularities were detected and the woman was admitted to hospital, where she gave birth to a normal baby.

Burial ground find fills historical gap

By David Nicholson-Lord

A couple using a metal detector have uncovered a burial ground in West Sussex which may cast new light on the period after the Romans left Britain.

The find was revealed at a public meeting in Chichester on Saturday. Thirty volunteers will start intensive excavations in July on the early medieval, or Dark Ages, burial ground, which is thought to contain hundreds of graves.

Among items found so far are silver and bronze jewelry, described as of high quality, coins, rings, buckles and spearheads. One brooch from 1st land, has been dated as about AD 400 and appears to indicate that the Jutes, who colonized Britain in the wake of the Romans, settled in Sussex.

Among the graves that have been examined are those of a warrior of 6ft 3in, who was buried with his spear, and a wealthy woman buried with her handbag containing Roman coins.

In one grave a woman was buried with a coin behind her ear, indicating the belief that the "ferryman" required payment for transporting the souls of the dead to the after-life.

The farmland site, at East Marden, on the South Downs in West Sussex, has been covered with soil until the main dig begins. It is under guard and protected by a bull to deter would-be robbers.

Mr Alec Down, director of excavations at Chichester, said: "There is a great gap in our knowledge which could be filled by this site."

It is believed that the ground was used for burials for 300 years. Chichester was one of the main Roman centres in Britain and there has been no certainty about the identity of their successors in the area. It is considered to be significant that the remains are of Jutes rather than Saxons.

Uncovering Imperial Rome, page 10

Lord Elgin rejects Greek claim

By Ronald Faux

Lord Elgin and Kinnaird said yesterday that he would approve of the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece as part of a worldwide attempt to recreate and recapture the great spirit of the Parthenon architecture.

However, he dismissed the present case being put by the Greek Government for their return, which he said was "as weak as water".

The Greek Government are to make a formal claim for the return of the sculptures, removed by a forebear of Lord Elgin from the Parthenon in the nineteenth century with the approval of the Greek authorities.

Neither the British Government nor the British Museum have shown any sympathy in the past for the Greek claims to the marbles, and Lord Elgin believed that the present demands, however engagingly expressed by Miss Melina Mercouri, the Greek Minister of Culture, would not win sympathy.

"They are merely saying that 'I want one thing to go from your museum to my museum', he said.

"But if an attempt is made to recapture the entire spirit of the great architecture by bringing together the Parthenon collections from around the world, then that would be different."

● ATHENS: It is still not clear whether the request for the return of the Elgin Marbles will be made by the Greek Foreign Ministry through diplomatic channels or by Miss Mercouri, who is due in London on Saturday as guest of the Institute of Contemporary Arts (Mario Modiano writes).

Livingstone accuses the press of distortion

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, today accused newspapers of portraying him as a "raving lunatic". He says in the magazine *Tibbis* that newspapers have become "propaganda sheets" for their editors or owners.

Tibbis has given Mr Livingstone a regular column. He said he had jumped at the chance of contributing a column "to reach over one million people without reporters, editors or owners twisting what I want to say". If he believed everything he

read about "Red Ken" then "I wouldn't vote for him myself".

Mr Livingstone added: "Clearly no one in Britain wants to see censorship of the papers, but there are now so few left and there is so little choice in political terms that some sort of action is required."

"I am tempted to say that we need a new law to prevent millionaire Australians coming over here to buy up our newspapers. But instead we could just extend the existing laws which control political balance."

'Inquest' decides Mozart was murdered by person unknown

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who was buried in a pauper's grave the day after his death in 1791, was murdered, a "jury" decided on Saturday.

After listening to two hours of evidence on the circumstances surrounding the composer's death, the "jury", at the Brighton Festival, remained divided in its opinion, but less than half of the 250 believed that he had died of natural causes, as the official version has it.

A majority returned a "verdict" of murder, but disputed which of three suspects was guilty. Finally Franz Hoffmeyer, a Viennese court official and husband of Mozart's piano pupil, Magdalena, possibly helped by his mistress, emerged as chief villain, with 60 votes to support his guilt.

Sassaparilla, Mozart's composition pupil and lodger and thought to be the lover of his wife, Constanza, received 39 votes. Salieri, the court Kapellmeister, who has already gained a bad name through Peter Shaffer's play *Amadeus*, was thought guilty by 28 people.

The proceedings of this "inquest" provoked high passions and Salieri, played like

the other witnesses by an amateur actor, was roundly hissed as he took the stand to give evidence.

Poor Mozart. If Shaffer's play had him turning in his grave, this event would have had him spinning.

The "inquest" was presided over by Mr Michael Hutchinson, QC, who acted as the



Mozart

coroner and, like all good judges, had prepared his summing-up before hearing the witnesses.

The idea for the "inquest" came from Mr Ian Hunter,

artistic director of the festival, whose theme is the last years of Mozart's life.

It sought answers to the question why Mozart, the most popular composer in Vienna, was buried hastily in a pauper's grave on December 6, 1791. Crowds had gathered outside his house as he lay dying, yet only a dozen attended his funeral and three went to the graveside.

The evidence was gathered by Mr Simon Whitworth, a barrister, who prepared briefs to be presented by three other barristers. It claimed that Mozart was not a pauper, was not depressed or worn out and was not an unrecognized failure.

Those claims are based on research by Mr Francis Carr, who is writing a book on the subject, and by Professor Horace Fitzpatrick.

The mystery of why Mozart was buried in a pauper's grave when a third-class burial giving him a single grave had been arranged remains unsolved.

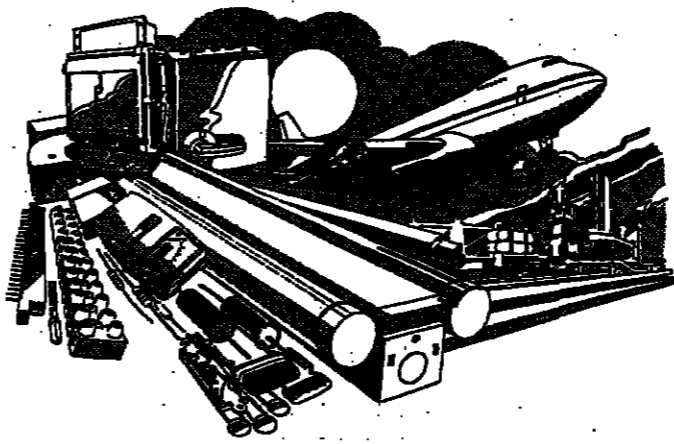
Everyone enjoys good, mysterious inquest, and at the end of the proceedings Mr Hutchinson concluded that a charge of murder would have to be contemplated.

This advertisement is published by Thomas Tilling plc, whose directors (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

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Sit-in by journalists fails to sway management of Stern

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Vogel support

The noon deadline set by Stern journalists for the management to withdraw the appointment of two editors of the staff consider too right-wing passed yesterday and they continued the occupation of the magazine's Hamburg headquarters which began on Friday night.

They are protesting that they were not consulted about the nomination last week of Herr Peter Scholl-Latour and Herr Johannes Gross to succeed Herr Peter Koch and Herr Felix Schmidt, the editors who resigned when the Hitler Diaries published in Stern proved to be forgeries.

Meanwhile, the Stuttgart dealer in Nazi memorabilia suspected of forging the diaries has been arrested after surrendering to German police on the Bavarian border on Saturday, apparently returning from Austria.

Herr Konrad Kujau, alias Dr Konrad Fischer, who delivered the diaries to Herr Gerd Heidemann, the Stern reporter, said in a statement released by his lawyer that he had returned to defend himself against charges of fraud.

The shockwaves of the Hitler Diaries scandal have continued to shake Stern and fascinate most Germans. In the tense and embittered atmosphere at the magazine's headquarters the journalists, who almost all condemned the publication of

Police have searched the flat of Herr Heidemann, dismissed last week by Stern, in connexion with the lawsuit the magazine has taken out against him for fraud. They also searched rooms he had rented in Hamburg where he kept his collection of Nazi documents, but would give no details of what they took away.

The return of Herr Kujau to Germany will be of vital importance in the preparation of possible charges of criminal fraud over the diaries. Herr Kujau, himself from East Germany, disappeared after the 60 volumes were exposed as forgeries and was said to have gone to Czechoslovakia.

Stuttgart police raided his shop on Friday and took away bags full of apparently valuable photographs, documents and works of art, some of which appeared to be forgeries.

In his statement Herr Kujau dismissed as "absurd" charges that he had forged the diaries himself. "I can neither read nor write old Germanic script," he said. He also denied charges that he had received DM9m (£2.35m) from Herr Heidemann. He said that as he handed over the diaries in instalments, convinced that they were genuine. He had received altogether only DM2.5m. Of this, he had kept only DM300,000 for his own services as a courier and middleman.



Wrestlers and referees greeting Emperor Hirohito when he arrived at a Tokyo sumo hall yesterday. In one bout, champion Wakashimazu (centre) shoved his opponent out of the ring, scoring an eighth straight victory.

Emirates' envoy not to FO liking

By Rodney Cowton

The Foreign Office is believed to have refused to accept the letters of credence of Mr Mohammed Mahdi Al-Tajir, the prospective Ambassador in London of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr Tajir, aged 51, a controversial and extremely wealthy businessman, was Ambassador in Britain for 10 years until his resignation last year. The Foreign Office was notified of his reappointment and given letters of credence last week. It is understood that the letters were returned to the Embassy last Friday, although the Foreign Office said yesterday it did not comment on communications between itself and an embassy.

Agreement is normally reached between two governments on a particular individual's acceptability as ambassador before letters of credence are presented.

It is thought that the letters were returned on the grounds that these procedures had been breached, though it is not clear whether this was the whole reason or whether it concealed a reluctance to accept the reappointment of Mr Tajir. It is reported that his return to the London Embassy has been resisted in some quarters in the Emirates.

While Ambassador, Mr Tajir was involved in a number of controversies, including being informally rebuffed in May 1979 for failing to attend the State opening of Parliament. This was seen as a snub for the Queen, although he maintained that he was prevented from attending by illness.

It was reported yesterday that officials from the Foreign Ministry of the UAE were in London investigating possible financial irregularities at the embassy, although no official confirmation of this was available and Mr Tajir was not available for comment.

Mr Tajir was born in Bahrain and educated for a time in Britain at Preston Grammar School. His first important appointment was as director of the Port and Customs Department in Bahrain.

Assad holds on in Lebanon Syrians dig in across Bekaa

From Robert Fisk, Rayak, Lebanon

As President Assad of Syria continued over the weekend to reject the newly agreed Israeli-Lebanese military withdrawal formula, Syrian Army engineers were busy constructing an extensive new series of earth fortifications, rearmaments and anti-tank ditches across the floor of the Bekaa Valley. On both sides of the highway south of Rayak, the Syrian Army has started several square miles of excavations into which radio communications vehicles and dozens of battle-tanks have already been driven.

Bright yellow bulldozers were yesterday pushing into the soft earth outside the village of Terbol and a clutch of antennae sprouted from a low, man-made hill to the west. Along the old Roman road towards Aanjar, newly arrived Palestinian guerrillas in brand-new Japanese-made lorries bearing Syrian registration plates drove southwards.

The Israeli forward positions lie more than 10 miles to the south, and it could just be that the Syrians are building a makeshift withdrawal line, a provisional communications and defensive network in case the Americans pull off a surprise and actually persuade President Assad to move his soldiers out of Lebanon.

But a few days ago Syrian officers told the local farmers to turn off the irrigation pumps around their fields, and the implication of this instruction

was not lost on the people of the Bekaa - tanks cannot fight in mud.

"Will the war come to Baalbek this year?" a bespectacled young man had asked us when we stopped further north. He brandished a copy of one of the Beirut morning newspapers. "They say that there has been a pro-Syrian revolt among the Palestinian guerrillas. The Syrians are warning that there will be another civil war here."

He pointed to a group of unshaven Palestinians driving past us, some of them carrying automatic weapons. "If there is a war here," he said, "we are going to get hurt because there are too many armies here."

Twice in the past three days, Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, has paid night-time visits to the Bekaa, his first return to Lebanon since he was evacuated by sea from Beirut last summer. Officially, he spent his time inspecting the Yamouk Brigade of the Palestine Liberation Army, the PLO's regular military unit, but in Damascus the Syrians were claiming - discreetly, but with evident pleasure - that pro-Syrian guerrilla officers had mutinied against Mr Arafat's leadership.

The PLO news agency did refer darkly yesterday to a "suspicious political campaign" being waged against the movement - presumably by Mr Arafat's more radical opponents

- and PLO officers in the Bekaa were in no mood to talk to journalists yesterday.

In Baalbek, word has gone about that there is now considerable tension between those guerrillas who have remained in the Bekaa these past eight months and the 1,500 Palestinians, all evacuees from Beirut last year, who returned to Lebanon under Syrian auspices 10 days ago.

The Syrians have meanwhile been encouraging the formation of a "rump" political opposition in Lebanon which will oppose the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement that the Parliament in Beirut is expected to approve today. However, the Syrians have chosen to put their faith in the three Lebanese political leaders - ex-President Suleiman Franjeh, Rachid Karami, the former Prime Minister, and Walid Jumblatt the Druse leader - who are generally discredited and in one case potentially senile. All three are disturbed at the consequences of an Israeli withdrawal on their own political careers, and the Lebanese are well aware of this.

So the conglomeration of armies in the Bekaa - the Syrians, the Palestinians and the small unit of Iranian Revolutionary Guards whose banners still fly on the hills above Baalbek - are preparing for a war of attrition or an outright Israeli attack with no real political support from within Lebanon.

Watergate burglar pardoned by President

WASHINGTON (Reuters) President Reagan has pardoned one Watergate burglar, but refused a similar application from two others convicted for their part in the 1972 break-in at Democratic Party headquarters.

Eugenio Rolando Martinez, aged 60, is the first convicted Watergate conspirator to be pardoned. He was jailed in 1973 and released on parole in 1974 when his sentence was reduced to time already spent in jail.

John Stuart Magruder, aged 48, and E. Howard Hunt, aged 64, are still on parole after serving part of their prison sentences.

Mr Magruder was convicted of obstruction of justice, and Mr Martinez and Mr Hunt of burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping.

Disc operation for Karajan

Bonn-Herbert von Karajan, the chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, is reported to have undergone an operation on a spinal disc on Friday, Michael Binyon writes.

Herr von Karajan, aged 75, who was recently involved in a dispute with the orchestra, has conducted for more than 25 years, entered a clinic in Hannover under a false name, and the section of the clinic in which he is being treated has been closed off.

Everest success

Katmandu (Reuters) - Two Americans and a Nepalese Sherpa yesterday reached the summit of Everest, a week after five climbers from the same German-American expedition scaled the mountain. A third team hopes to reach the summit tomorrow.

China martyrs

Rome (AP) - The Pope declared blessed two Saeetan missionaries martyred in China in 1920, and said he hoped to strengthen the dialogue between the Vatican and China. More than 60 bishops have been ordained in China since 1958, but the Vatican does not recognize them.

Royal visit



King Juan Carlos (above) and Queen Sofia of Spain began a seven-day visit to Brazil in the north-eastern city of Salvador, which has a large Spanish community. Diplomats in Brasilia said the royal visit was partly to show support for the political liberalisation programme sponsored by President Joao Figueiredo's Government.

Rebels repelled

Managua (AP) - The Government claimed that its forces have dispersed 500 rebels who invaded north-eastern Nicaragua from Honduras, but sources in the armed forces said fighting continued on both the northern and southern fronts.

CIA blamed

Havana (AFP) - Thirty-three people have been sentenced to prison terms for carrying out "numerous and continual" acts of sabotage with the support of the CIA, according to Señor Roberto Veiga, head of the Cuban workers' organization.

Victims list

Lahore (AFP) - The Human Rights Society of Pakistan published a list of nine political prisoners who are said to have "died in jail due to torture during interrogation" since the military takeover led by General Zia L-Haq.

Taiwan break

Taipei (AP) - Taiwan broke off diplomatic relations with Lesotho after the announcement in Peking that China and the African state had established diplomatic ties.

Delhi blaze

Delhi (AFP) - Three people were killed and more than 30 injured in a fire which destroyed the Indian Oil Corporation's liquid petroleum gas plant in west Delhi.

Scientists rethink on Etna

From John Earle, Rome

A team of scientists and technicians yesterday inspected the southern slopes of Mt Etna to consider more action after the partial failure of an attempt early on Saturday to divert the lava flow away from villages with explosives.

The attempt could be made with only 33 out of 50 explosives charges inserted in tubes into solidified lava which formed the bank of the stream, because the lower level of tubes was subjected to unexpectedly high temperatures from the mass of lava. In consequence, only the upper part of a 15-yard gap was blown away.

The incandescent lava, which flowed out along a man-made channel towards an old crater, had by yesterday become a 600-yard trickle and, according to those on the spot, was threatening to rejoin the main stream.

The inspecting team was reported to be against further use of explosives. Instead, they were said to be considering using bulldozers to widen the gap or to try to obstruct the main stream.

Though Etna's summit reaches 10,700 ft, the main lava outflow is from a crater at a little over 7,000 ft. "Operation Bang," as it was named by Signor Loris Fortuna, the Minister for Civil Defence, took place at about 6,500 ft. MOSCOW. Klyuchevskaya Sopka, a volcano in the Soviet Far East, has been erupting for more than two months, but is not posing any danger, according to Tass News Agency, Reuters reports.

Libya frees West Germans in swop

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Eight West Germans, who have been in prison in Libya since April, have been released and returned yesterday afternoon to Frankfurt airport. Meanwhile, two Libyans who were tried here on charges of torturing fellow-Libyans in the Libyan People's Bureau last November have been expelled in what appears to be a concession to Libyan demands for a swop.

The eight Germans, who were detained on unspecified charges of spying, said on arrival that they had been well treated, and appeared to be in good health. Herr Jürgen Möllemann, State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, flew to Libya last month to discuss their case with Major Jalloud, the Libyan deputy leader.

The exchange has caused considerable concern here in case it sets an unhealthy

precedent and exposes West Germany to blackmail by any country whose citizens are arrested here. A spokesman for the Young Liberals called on Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, to make sure the federal republic's principles of law were not sacrificed.

The two accused Libyans, Dr Mustapha Zaidi and Mr Abdulla Yania, had already appeared in court and heard charges that they had threatened dissident Libyans with forcible return to Libya.

Last weekend Bonn also expelled a Libyan who was serving a sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of a former Libyan diplomat. He was sent back to Tripoli and exchanged for four Germans who had already spent many years in prison in Libya on various convictions.

State work on the dole

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Spaniards on the dole may be required to work for the state during the period in which they collect unemployment compensation according to a ministerial order which became effective yesterday.

The order from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security published in the official state bulletin also incorporates other measures affecting employment

It said the unemployed "can be obliged to carry out tasks of social collaboration" during up to five months of the period in which they are receiving compensation. It added that any job assigned to an out-of-work person should "coincide with the physical and professional aptitudes of the unemployed worker". The order implements a decree issued last June by the previous administration.

Indian backwater finds itself gripped by political fever

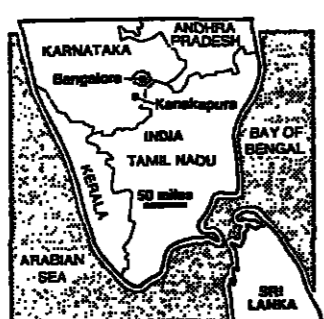
From Michael Hamlyn, Bangalore

Kanakapura has elections as San Francisco has earthquakes: occasionally it is devastated by one. The narrow streets of the little town have for weeks been rendered virtually impassable, and its conversations inaudible by competing processions, public address systems, bands, dancers and cheer leaders.

Triumphal arches of palm leaves shade the main street, fluttering with posters from competing candidates. Important visitors from Delhi arrived, addressed large imported crowds and departed. The idea that American hometown elections represent the ultimate in political razzmatazz needs revision.

Kanakapura (the name means town of gold, money or plenty, a plain misnomer) and its 200 or so surrounding hamlets were the centre of so much attraction because of a by-election yesterday to the state's legislative assembly in Bangalore, the garden city 20 miles away. But this was not an ordinary by-election.

Earlier this year Mrs Gandhi and her ruling Congress (I) Party received an unpleasant blow when their nearly traditional grip on the south was broken both here and in Andhra Pradesh and against all appar-



Mrs Gandhi: Fighting to regain state control.

ent odds in Karnataka the Janata party was elected to power. It was the first time a non-Congress party formed the Government in the state. So unprepared were they that the best nominee for Chief Minister had not even stood in the elections. He needed to win a seat in the Assembly, so the local member moved up to the second chamber.

But the Assembly is so finely balanced that the seat had to be won otherwise the party would lose control and Congress(I) would be back in again. So there was everything to fight for. This is the only state in the union controlled by Janata, the residue of the coalition which replaced Mrs Gandhi as the national Government after the emergency.

Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, the Chief Minister, put all he had

got into the fight, and so did Congress. Although there were 13 candidates in all, the election was in effect a straight fight between Mr Hegde and Mrs Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi is not here, and her candidate was a little-known retired police inspector who had never run for public office before, but that scarcely seems to matter.

Mr Hegde, aged 56, soft-spoken and thoughtful, with a Yasser Arafat style of beard has evolved a new style of politics, well suited to India's love of simplicity and austerity. He has tried to introduce value-based politics in Karnataka," he said.

Values have vanished from Indian politics, and the people grow cynical of politicians.

"Mrs Gandhi has no scruples. For her the end is important and the means are not. She uses whatever means she has to use. This is just the opposite of what Maganma Gandhi preached. As a result, corruption has seeped into the system, both political and administrative corruption. But I think people like what I have been doing. There are signs of regaining faith in the system."

Mr Hegde's supporters drew attention to the conscious difference he drew between

his regime and that of his predecessor. Mr Gundu Rao, the Congress (I) Minister. He has ostentatiously not moved into the luxurious Chief Minister's residence that Mr Rao had built. He moved quickly to appoint commissioners as soon as a breath of an accusation of corruption escaped the opposition's lips.

His method of electioneering is also instructive. Mr Hegde toured the little villages of the constituency, each scarcely more than 200 inhabitants and perhaps a small temple. He drove with a small convoy of supporters through the brick red countryside, and walked the last hundred yards or so along the dusty earth roads. He had no police escort or outriders. A band or dancers often greeted him. A coconut was usually smashed at his feet to ward off the evil eye, and red dye painted on his forehead. A little festival often ensued as he was greeted with dishes of fruit.

Under a canopy of palm leaves decorated with mango leaves and the brilliant flame-coloured golmohan blossom, he would make a few remarks to the villagers - who very likely had never seen a Chief Minister before in their lives - generally telling them of the work his Government has done for water supplies. The drought here,

though bad, is nothing like as bad as in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, but water supplies are of crucial importance.

He sometimes draws attention in low conversational tones to the difference between his style of travel and that of his predecessor, who went about the state in a helicopter. "With the money he spent on helicopters he could have put a tap in every village," he told one crowd. Then he would on to the next through awaiting him down the road. The day before campaigning ceased, he visited 33 villages the inhabitants waiting for him until midnight in some of them.

His opponents in the Congress camp would have none of this man-of-the-people stance. "He is not a progressive he's a conservative!" Mr Karwa Lakappa, the member of Lok Sabha for the district, exclaimed. Adding for good measure: "And he's hand in glove with the Communist Party, Marxist. All the undemocratic forces and communal forces are working with him."

Mr Lakappa insisted that he would not be supported by the minorities. "Because of the secular character of our party and what we have done for women - the anti-divorce act and so on - the majority of women are supporting our candidate."

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US and Russia blame each other for slow pace of Geneva talks

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The chief American and Soviet negotiators in the talks on limiting intermediate-range nuclear missiles have returned to Geneva for their sixth session since the meetings started 18 months ago, each blaming lack of progress on the other side's obduracy.

Mr Paul Nitze, aged 76, said the interim proposal, regarded by the Americans as a first step towards the ultimate zero-option goal of no such missiles in Europe, made just before the negotiations adjourned at the end of March, opened an opportunity to find common ground.

"Unfortunately, the Soviets continue to impose unacceptable conditions upon such an agreement," he said. But any new proposals they made would be examined with an open mind.

His Soviet counterpart, Mr Yuri Kvitinskiy, aged 46, said that the American "interim option" was aimed at imposing

a unilateral reduction on the Soviet Union. He advocated the latest Andropov proposals as the means for radically reducing nuclear arms in Europe and maintaining approximate parity between the Soviet Union and Nato, both in delivery systems and in the number of warheads.

The negotiations resume on Tuesday, with the United States reportedly to be considering proposing a 300-warhead limit for each side. This would mean partial deployment of about half of the 572 of the new cruise and Pershing 2 missiles to counter the Soviet SS20s. Unless there is a positive outcome to this round, prospects are bleak for any progress in the parallel negotiations on strategic weapons which resume next month.

● **ATHENS:** Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, is sending letters to day to the leaders of the other five Balkan states, including

Turkey, inviting them to set in motion plans for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans.

He announced this initiative in the course of a large political rally in the northern Greek town of Komotini, near the frontiers with Turkey and Bulgaria.

He told crowds chanting "out with the death bases" that he was proposing to the other leaders a concrete procedure aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons from the Balkan peninsula. It would begin with a summit meeting of experts within 1983, and culminate eventually in a summit conference of Balkan leaders.

"Our ambition is that the Balkans, once the powder-keg of Europe, should become a bastion of peace," he said.

The Prime Minister's call was echoed on Sunday by demonstrators for peace and nuclear disarmament who converged on Constitution Square.

The main march was from Marathon to Athens and was staged to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the assassination of Gregory Lambrakis, the left-wing deputy and leading peace campaigner, by right-wing extremists.

However, the peace movements of other left-wing parties in Greece failed to agree on a common demonstration, so yesterday's marches, attended by tens of thousands, were sponsored only by the pro-Soviet Greek Communist Party.

Mr Papandreu in his Komotini speech, while preaching nuclear disarmament, insisted that Greece needed to be militarily strong in view of the threat posed by Turkey.

Man in the News

Testing time for a cautious hawk

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

When you meet Mr Kenneth Adelman, President Reagan's new Arms Control Director, it is hard to understand why there was such a fuss over his appointment and why it took the Senate almost three months to approve his confirmation.

When he was nominated to succeed the urbane Mr Eugene Rostow as head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), he had the reputation of being a hardliner on defence issues. Yet in conversation he emphasises the need for caution and flexibility when dealing with the Soviet Union.

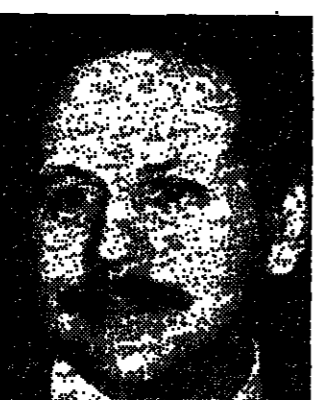
During his disastrous initial Senate confirmation hearing, Mr Adelman, who is 36, appeared to be ignorant about the task he was taking on. He answered at least 20 times "I don't know" or "I hadn't thought about that" to questions relating directly to arms control issues.

His supporters put this down to "stage fright" and, after some intensive behind-the-scenes coaching, his performance improved a great deal during subsequent appearances. Now, although still not completely fluent in his subject, he at least seems more comfortable when talking about his allotted task.

He is clearly not entirely at ease with his new role. He speaks slowly, choosing his words with caution, and has an academic's tendency to do his thinking out loud (most of his career has been with universities and think-tanks). This means he sometimes says things he should not.

Mr Adelman's grasp of his subject will be tested when the intermediate-range missile talks resume in Geneva tomorrow. Although not involved in the day-to-day negotiations - these will continue to be handled by Mr Paul Nitze, who has led the US delegation since the talks began in December 1981 - Mr Adelman is responsible for supervising the American positions at both the intermediate and strategic missile talks.

Mr Adelman owes his haw-



Mr Adelman: Not entirely at ease

kish reputation largely to his opposition to the Salt 2 agreement negotiated by the Carter Administration but more ratified by the Senate. He wrote an article in an academic publication explaining why he was against it, and this was one of the pieces of evidence his opponents on the Senate foreign relations committee used against him.

In that article he not only criticized the lack of verification procedures built into Salt 2 but made the more sweeping criticism of arms control accords for failing to slow down the Soviet Union's military build-up.

This did not mean, he now explains, that he was opposed to arms control talks as such, as some of his Democratic opponents have alleged. But he felt the history of arms control in the past 15 years had been disappointing and called for a new approach.

As he sees it, previous US administrations have, for political reasons, been over anxious to achieve agreements with the Soviet Union at almost any cost, though such pacts did little to enhance American security. They have not really made the world a less dangerous place. This is why he favours the Reagan policy of seeking "deep cuts" in the US and Soviet arsenals, rather than the approach favoured by many arms control specialists of chipping away at the edges of Soviet military might.

Pinochet's big state sell-off backfires

Immediately after the coup which overthrew the left-wing administration of President Salvador Allende in 1973, General Pinochet set less than an economic revolution. Using the theories espoused by Professor Milton Friedman and some bright young Chilean disciples from the University of Chicago, the new president set about dismantling the various state controls. They had been blamed for a damning inflation rate of 600 per cent and drastic food shortages.

Under the late President Allende and indeed previous administrations, much of the economy was run by the state. As long ago as 1939 the Corporación de Fomento (Corfo) had been established to foster the country's transformation into a modern industrial power.

By 1970 some 300 businesses were owned by Corfo and during President Allende's three years in power a further 100 or so companies were taken over by the central government.

In the enthusiasm for privatization of the country's industrial base, President Pinochet had sold off more than 400 state-owned companies so that by 1980, only 42 remained under state control and half of these were up for sale.

The swift disposal of so many businesses when the economy was beginning to slow down and interest rates were high meant that few were in a position to buy. This resulted inevitably in a small handful of people owning a majority of the country's sources of production.

Police have launched a big sweep through working-class districts near Santiago, where violent disturbances broke out on Friday. Weekend reports said more than 100 people were detained. The unrest came after the funerals of a young taxi driver and a boy of 15 shot on Wednesday after anti-government protests.

A week earlier, police clashed with workers and students making an ill-fated protest march through the centre of Santiago.

CHILE'S ECONOMIC CRISIS Part 1

In the field of overseas commerce, President Pinochet stood for opening the economy up to the competition of international trade.

Import tariffs totalling some 94 per cent under the previous administration were dismantled and replaced by customs duty of 10 per cent on all articles including food staples such as wheat and luxury goods such as whisky.

In addition, various incentives were introduced to enable the setting up of foreign banks in Chile while local banks, which had been nationalized under the Allende Government were returned to

private hands. Interest rates were determined by free market forces and restrictions on the free movement of capital overseas were completely abolished.

In 1976, Chile withdrew from the Andean Pact, one of the Latin American free trade agreements, and in 1977, after a year of free trade, the pact was terminated.

Finally, agricultural reforms initiated by President Allende and his predecessor, President Eduardo Frei, came to an abrupt end under General Pinochet. About 30 per cent of Chile's agricultural land was returned to its original owners, 20 per cent was auctioned off to non-farming sectors and only 30 per cent remained in the hands of the small-scale farmers who had benefited from the reform programme.

Before 1973 the latter had been able to take advantage of special credit and technical assistance arrangements run by the state. But after the military

coup, the small farmer found himself without funds to finance future plantings. Inevitably many were forced to sell off their land.

Other sectors of the economy, too, suffered from the dismantling of the state system. The social security system was turned over to private sponsorship.

The first signs of the current economic crisis were not really felt, however, until after 1975 when reductions in customs tariffs began to bite. Gradually, demand for national products started to drop in the face of stiff competition.

Chilean industries began to fall apart. Businesses became importers and in some cases simply closed down their factories. Easy access to credit and a huge demand for imported goods led to more indebtedness by many Chileans. Savings were no longer invested; exports fell and imports rose.

Alarm bells finally rang for the administration in May 1981, when the sugar-refining company, Cera, became insolvent because of speculative manoeuvres by its owners. The company had contracted debts totalling more than \$300m and had twice used the same guarantees to back up borrowing. The insolvent company affected a large section of the country's banking system.

Ironically, the Government subsequently had to intervene by enacting new banking laws to prevent further speculation on the basis of the company's assets.

Mr Njono: "Nonsense"

Several ministers and other leaders have issued statements urging President Moi to name the "traitor" and the country backing him. The Livestock Development Minister, Mr Paul Ngũ, even calls for the "traitor's" property to be seized, and alleges - without giving details - that he has received substantial sums of money from Israel and South Africa.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are due to visit Kenya in November. They were last here in 1952, when King George VI died and the Queen succeeded him while in Kenya. If the present crisis strains relations with Britain, which has close relations with Kenya and is this country's biggest trading partner and source of aid, it could mean a reconsideration of the forthcoming royal visit.

● Back in Nairobi Mr Njono returned to Nairobi yesterday from London and went to church in a city suburb. He told parishioners to go home, sleep peacefully, and not waste time in talking "nonsense".

● The Vatican announcement on the appointment of a new Apostolic Administrator in East Timor can be seen to reflect the continued unrest in this small country, which was occupied by Indonesia in 1976 after the withdrawal of Portugal.

East Timorese guerrilla groups fighting in certain areas force Indonesia to keep 3,000 troops and policemen on the island.

The new papal representative is Father Carlos Filipe Ximenes, the Portuguese Prime Minister, for discussions.

Kenyans suspect Britain of grooming new leader

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Kenya's biggest political crisis for years continues here, with all three Sunday papers leading their front pages with reports of the latest developments.

President Daniel arap Moi told a public meeting a week ago that an unnamed foreign power was grooming someone of its choice to become president. Most Kenyans believe he was referring to Britain.

The British High Commissioner, Sir Leonard Allison, met President Moi on Friday to express concern at suggestions that Britain was trying to interfere in Kenyan politics. Their meeting has not been reported officially here, but both the *Sunday Nation* and the *Sunday Standard* make it their main story.

The *Sunday Times*, organ of the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU), does not report Sir Leonard's meeting with President Moi, but reports a BBC interview with a Kenyan university lecturer, Mr Shadrach Guto, now in exile in London, who speculated that the main President Moi has in mind is his Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Charles Njoro, at present in Britain.

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● Bathurst: Australia and Japan could offer to form a joint peacekeeping force as part of efforts to resolve the Cambodian conflict. Mr Lionel Bowen, the Australian Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday, Reuters reports.

In Tokyo a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said the law did not generally allow the dispatch of Japanese defence forces abroad for such military cooperation.

The Thai say an 18-mile pulled by the Vietnamese would demonstrate their sincerity in seeking a solution to Cambodia and ensure that Thai border villages were no longer within range of Vietnamese artillery.

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Russia reveals its letters from America

Moscow (AP) - A Soviet newspaper yesterday said the nuclear freeze movement in the United States was growing and it published letters of concern written by "ordinary Americans" to Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader.

In a general reply to the letter writers, he said the Soviet Union's position is "not to start an arms race in a place where it did not exist and to stop it where it exists now".

The letters and Mr Andropov's reply were published in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. The paper quoted from one letter which, it said, was written by Joy Copeland, of Fairfax, Virginia, who accused President Reagan of pursuing increased defence spending on behalf of friends in the arms industry. The writer said she is a civilian, who has been 12 years with the Air Force, including posts at the Pentagon.

"This letter is not an attempt at state treason," she wrote. "I like my country very much... Mr Andropov, I do feel you are right and Mr Reagan is not. Do list me among those who have learnt in the recent period of time not to trust him (Reagan) and his Administration."

The Soviet press has on several occasions published letters it said Americans wrote to Mr Andropov, including a well-publicized one from 10-year-old Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine. Mr Andropov personally replied to her.

Soviet commentators yesterday reiterated demands that British and French nuclear missiles be counted in the arms reduction talks which resume tomorrow in Geneva.



Close marking: Pelé, the Brazilian football star, with his wife at the Cannes film festival.

Bolshoi dancers find their feet in Wiesbaden

From Our Correspondent Bonn

The Bolshoi Ballet Company opened its long-awaited fortnight's tour of West Germany with a glittering performance in Wiesbaden of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, which was received with tumultuous applause and high critical praise for some of the dancers.

The opening performance in the famous Hesse State Theatre - itself reminiscent of the Bolshoi Theatre - was held in the presence of Mr Vladimir Semynov, the Soviet Ambassador, and Herr Holger Börner, the Prime Minister of Hesse. All tickets - costing up to Dm150 (£40) each - for this and the subsequent three performances were sold out within two hours when booking opened three months ago.

Dancing to the choreography of Yuri Grigorovich, the chief choreographer, who was watching from the back, the company performed with a zest and technical accomplishment they rarely display in Moscow.

Critics noted especially the exuberance and élan of two of the younger soloists - Irak Mukhametov, winner of the Grand Prix in the 1981 Moscow Ballet

Jailing of editor alarms Hongkong-Chinese

From David Bonavia, Peking

The sentencing of a left-wing Hongkong editor to 10 years' imprisonment here for espionage is likely to cause worries in Hongkong about the status of its Chinese residents when they travel on the mainland, or if the territory reverts to Chinese sovereignty.

Mr Lo Chen-hsun editor of the Chinese-language pro-Peking *New Evening Post* has been under arrest here for a year, it was disclosed yesterday. His disappearance while on a visit last year caused a sensation in Hongkong left-wing circles.

Mr Lo, who is believed to have travelled on a passport issued by the People's Republic of China, is not evidently subject to protection by the British Government on the grounds of his Hongkong residence.

He was accused of passing important political, diplomatic and military secrets to American agents in Hongkong and being paid regularly for them, and is said to have pleaded guilty.

The naming of the United States is seen as a sign of its deteriorating relations with China over various contentious issues, especially the favourable American treatment of Taiwan.

The case has disturbing implications for anyone - Chinese or foreign - who attempts to follow the affairs of this country intelligently.

Journalists routinely exchange views and gossip with people they know or suspect to be intelligence agents, including diplomats and military attaches of their own embassies. To receive payment for another matter, but it is an interesting legal point whether a payment considered evidence of a crime of the People's Republic.

The nationality and protection of the more than five million Chinese residents of Hongkong is an extremely complex subject because only a small number have all the rights of citizenship of the United Kingdom. Most have only a vague claim to British protection, or none at all when they travel overseas or in China.

competition, who danced Romeo, and Vladimir Derevyanko, in the role of Mercutio, who at 24 is one of the company's most exciting new stars. Unusually, the Bolshoi making its third visit to Germany in 10 years, has brought its 95-strong orchestra with it, under the chief conductor, Agis Zhuravits.

They will also perform in Stuttgart and Hamburg.

Peace movements seek referendum on Nato missiles

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

More than 1,500 participants in a West Berlin conference of peace movements from 25 countries joined hands on Saturday evening to form a chain stretching from the Polish military mission on the western edge of the city to the Portuguese consulate in the centre to symbolize their demands for a nuclear-free Europe from Poland to Portugal.

Their action came at the end of a six-day gathering, the second European nuclear disarmament convention, which called for non-violent blockades of military installations, close cooperation with trade unions and the holding of referendums to prevent the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Europe in the autumn.

The 3,000 participants, who included Monsignor Bruce Kent, General Secretary, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, of leading West German politicians from the Social Democrats and Green parties, organizers from the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, and women from the Greenham Common protest camp, said they did not now expect an acceptable solution at the Geneva arms talks. The only endorsement they would give would be for a continuation of talks beyond 1983 and scrapping of all plans for deployment of the missiles.

Meanwhile the peace movements in Europe, America, Japan and the Pacific would try to mobilize public opinion to make the deployment of new missiles politically impossible.

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Mayor of Saarbrücken, and a leading left-wing member of the Social Democratic Party, called for a general strike by German trade unions to bring pressure on the Government and stop the production of materials related to war.

His call was firmly rejected by the German Trades Union Council, which said it ruled out any strike against the legal, democratic decision-making of those bodies constitutionally empowered to make them.

The Greens' action was warmly welcomed by the unofficial East German peace campaigners, who told the conference in a message that a number of activists, including seven members of the Evangelical church in Cottbus, had recently been arrested and sentenced for the "reasonable" passing on of information.

Bonn has rejected an East German protest made at the weekend that unknown West German persons had crossed the border at Raum Benneckenstein, near Magdeburg, and "forcibly destroyed border security installations".

The West German mission in East Berlin protested against the reports of this put out by the official East German news agency.

Herr Egon Bahr, the ADF defence expert, said his party would soon introduce a resolution in Parliament calling for an immediate halt to the arms race on both sides.

Speakers and organizers at the conference said they were satisfied with the result of their discussions and expert hearings, although the meetings were boycotted by all official peace groups in East Europe.

A third conference of peace movements will be held in Italy next year, when it is hoped the East Europeans will attend. In Berlin messages of support were read out that had been smuggled out by unofficial peace movements in the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

Herr Erich Hoecker, the East German leader, reacted quickly to the demonstration in East Berlin last week by five Green members of Parliament, who were arrested after unfurling banners calling for disarmament in East and West. In a surprisingly conciliatory message, Herr Hoecker, to whom the Greens had addressed a message, said he regretted it had not been possible to talk "to you and your friends." But he said both German states should take steps for disarmament in their respective alliances.

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Herr Erich

THE ARTS

Television
National
colours

"A man couldn't ask for a prettier day", says John Brown on the gallows, upright as a Saturn rocket before the hangman sends him in who-knows-what direction. So Sterling Hayden, for it really was he, ended a cameo part, doubtfully as his name suggests, in *The Blue and the Gray*, which began last night on BBC1. He departed early on, leaving us to face most of the five hours and five minutes of this Civil War saga, which continues tonight and concludes tomorrow.

To be fair, this one began well. The war is to be seen through the eyes of the artist John Geyser, born in Virginia but confirmed in his anti-slavery views when slave-hunters hang his black friend for sheltering runaways.

When the war starts, his brothers are on the Southern side while he journeys with the North. He has met and sketched Abraham Lincoln, recognizable, despite the built-up nose, as our old, grave friend Gregory Peck - especially grave on this occasion, maybe because that nose is uncomfortable.

Geyser, attractively and earnestly played by John Hammond, is present at the first battle of Bull Run. It is watched by senators and their ladies from Washington but their picnic is snarled up in the ensuing rout.

All is not lost here for Geyser, however, for he meets a senator's daughter, Kathy Reynolds (Kathleen Beller), in the most trying conditions and starts the road to romance by slapping her across the face to stifle her hysterics. He has also made a friend of Jonas Steele (Stacy Keach), the President's bodyguard, a mysterious man given to prophetic dreams, one of which almost stops him proposing to Geyser's pretty cousin thereby closing off a promising subplot.

But *The Blue and the Gray* is entered into by everybody with great gusto, as befits such a sad national remembrance. With more than 2,000 participating it certainly does have a cast too numerous to mention, but everything is well handled by the director Andrew V. McLaglen. If the eyes do not take it all in at once, the videos surely will.

Dennis Hackett

Opera
Not a trace of pomposity

Die Meistersinger
Covent Garden

Wagner's humane comedy returned to Covent Garden on Saturday in a revival that is better than ripe: it is very much alive. In the pit Colin Davis bypasses traditional wisdom and solemnity in favour of a frank response to the music, a spring attack rather than an autumn remembering. The accompaniment to Sachs's third act monologue, for instance, realizes all the sounds of conflict as well as the sweetness, and the pagantry at the end is hearteningly free of pomposity. Even the overture has more of

passionate sword-thrust than stately procession about it.

The principal singers are mostly those who worked with Sir Colin on the last revival a year ago. Hans Sotin as Sachs falls in with his conductor in avoiding portentousness: this is no philosopher cobbler but a simple artisan, who sings in a matter-of-fact style and compensates for possible shallowness with the dignity and beauty of his tone. Among the other Meistersingers, Gwynne Howell is a deep, still, admirable Pogner, and John Gibbs makes an effective new Kothner. The one sadness is that these performances bring us the last of Sir Geraint Evans's mean but acutely lovable Beckmesser. On the side of youth and

love, Lucia Popp is again a radiant Eva, of unaffected pure sound and long phrases of a wholly natural elegance. I am afraid one hears the quietest very much as an accompaniment for her, despite the positive contributions of the others. Among them is Robert Tear's exciting and vocally daring David, a performance to crown a season of remarkable versatility and success for him.

Robert Hosfally, who has arrived at Wagner's more lyrical heroes after three decades on the operatic stage, contributes a less than wonderful Walther, but one cannot grumble when everywhere else there is such benignity.

Paul Griffiths



Lucia Popp: radiant and naturally elegant

Cannes Film Festival
Irresistible urge to scandalize

A Cannes favourite for a quarter of a century, the Italian director Marco Ferreri says of his new film, *Storia di Piers*, that "it is up to the spectator to build up his own story with the material I have assembled" - which might seem a rather high-handed approach, particularly since the material provided is so largely incoherent. The film is not as grossly offensive as *La Grande Bouffe*, *L'ultima donna* or *Tales of Ordinary Madness*, though Ferreri cannot ever resist the urge to scandalize (he touches the nadir of pornography with a scene in which Isabelle Huppert raises her skirt to reveal - thanks to the magic of montage - some other lady's public parts).

The film is based on Piers Degli Esposto's memoirs of

family life, with an incorrigibly promiscuous mother and a devoted if somewhat abstracted communist father, both of whom she loved equally and incestuously. The fact that the multinational, all-star family is composed of Huppert, Hanna Schygulla and Marcello Mastroianni does not enhance belief any more than Ferreri's obvious delight in the scandalous bits encourages confidence in his claims that this ragged slice of life is all about man's destiny.

Mrinal Sen's *The Case is Closed* is a reassuring contrast. It has none of the gloss of Ferreri, but its credibility lies precisely in its rough, indignant urgency. Sen brings us closer than any other film-maker to the daily life of his country.

His new film investigates a small Calcutta incident. A 12-year-old boy - one of ten million infant employed - who works as a domestic servant for a middle-class couple, dies suddenly one night. The cause seems to be carbon monoxide poisoning caused by sleeping in an unventilated kitchen. The consequent investigations reveal more about the fears and guilt of the middle-class employers, however, than about the physical causes of the accident. The ultimate message of this quietly unrelenting film, with its constant turmoil of faces, accusing and accused, is that the greatest of social crimes is indifference.

David Robinson

Dance
Young experience

Swan Lake
Covent Garden

Three further casts have followed Samsova and Ashmore into the leads in Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake*, but only one of them really brought the production to life. That was when Margaret Barbieri played Odette and Odile, with Desmond Kelly as Siegfried and a bonus in Alain Dubreuil's Rothbart, as vivid and sinister as something out of *Star Wars*.

Barbieri not only dances the ballerina role more strongly than the other contestants, she gives the part more emotion and character too: a very gentle heroine in the lakeside scenes, a dangerously seductive double in the ballroom. Kelly acts Siegfried with conviction and partners magnificently.

One advantage Barbieri has over Marion Tait and Sheryl Kennedy is that she had her first taste of ballerina roles while still a teenager, and, although Royal Ballet policies then enforced a cruel hiatus, the early experience counts. It is difficult to give a really good dancer responsibilities too soon, and easy to leave it too late. Tait and Kennedy both dance with care and understanding, but the theatrical magic is not there.

This production is likely to come into its own when the management summons up courage to put some of the really young dancers into the leads.

Concerts
RLPO/Handley
Philharmonic Hall
Liverpool/Radio 3

Music which falls easily upon the ear is not necessarily by definition either good or bad. A work's status is determined merely by its power to set in motion the cogs of the imagination and the intellect. If there was an ever-ready undemanding piece which failed in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's concert on Saturday it was not William Mathias's Second Symphony, which received a brilliant world premiere under Vernon Handley, forming the climax of this year's Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society's contemporary composer seminar.

Mathias has valuable things to say, even if his manner is sometimes a little garrulous. True, his occasional pieces, like the setting of Psalm 67 now known universally as the "Royal Wedding Anthem", and the Investiture Anniversary Fanfare, both of which we heard in performances of brass repentence, have no profundities to utter. Indeed there is something almost wicked about their jaunty, a Walton-like sparkle in the eye. The new symphony, however, like Walton's First, has deeper aspirations. It is subtitled *Summer Music*, although its chief atmospheric concern is predictably with things Celtic. "Festiva regio" (summer region), the first movement, explores rather than fully develops two main ideas. In

spite of Mathias's effusive manner the effect achieved here is a magical one of solid granite cliffs, of primeval and frantic Dionysian rites and of mystery and remoteness.

The second movement is prefaced by a line translated from the sixth-century Welsh poet Taliesin. "My original country is the region of the summer stars". With the incantations of the woodwind and the static harmonies there are echoes here of Messiaen, although Mathias cannot resist building to a huge and brassy climax, thereby spoiling his spiritual and cosmological allusion. But the finale, exultantly reflecting the closing words of Dylan Thomas's prologue to the collected poems, reaffirms a conviction which was heard to be lamentably lacking in Delius's dull response to Walt Whitman's ecstatic *Sea Drift*, despite the superlative singing of Peter Knapp and the Liverpool Philharmonic Chorus.

Stephen Pettitt

EBF/Gönnenwein
Festival Hall

A beautifully interlocked Bach programme to celebrate the twenty-first English Bach Festival, the Fourth Suite, the Christmas Cantata which borrows its opening movement and the E flat *Magnificat* from which Bach took a duet for the cantata. This *Magnificat*, with its four lightweight interpretations, does not have the

Theatre
The Great Eric
Ackroyd Disaster
Coliseum, Oldham

"Welcome to North" says the cloth-capped narrator, addressing an audience of approximately 500 locals and me. Almost at once however he is upstaged by the world-famous smoke of Grindley's Smokeworks, belching in from the wings, descending in murky drapes from the flies and sending a shower of begrimed pigeon corpses thudding at his feet.

Feeding happily on "soot and chips" and dusting their babies like furniture, the people of Badchester are extremely proud of their smoke which Grindley's exist specially to produce. All this is good bitter hilarity up in these parts, but only Bill Tidy, whose first play this is, could have devised the Spriggs Trophy for industrial coughing, coughed for at Wembley and won by Badchester for 93 successive years.

Devotees of the "Cloggies" in *Private Eye* will find the Badchester coughers no disappointment in Pat Trueman's production. Their angry little faces (one with the characteristic Bill Tidy spartan) are much closer to the cartoonist's style than Tom Courtenay's Andy Capp was. Especially champion smokemixer Eric (John McArdle), who turns aside momentarily from making Ackroyd's famous Spotted Number 12 to boast to the audience, and releases a burst of

fresh air on the unprotected town. Instantly the old asphyxiate, the coughers' lungs are wrecked and public indignation drives Eric to exile in the most appalling place they can think of.

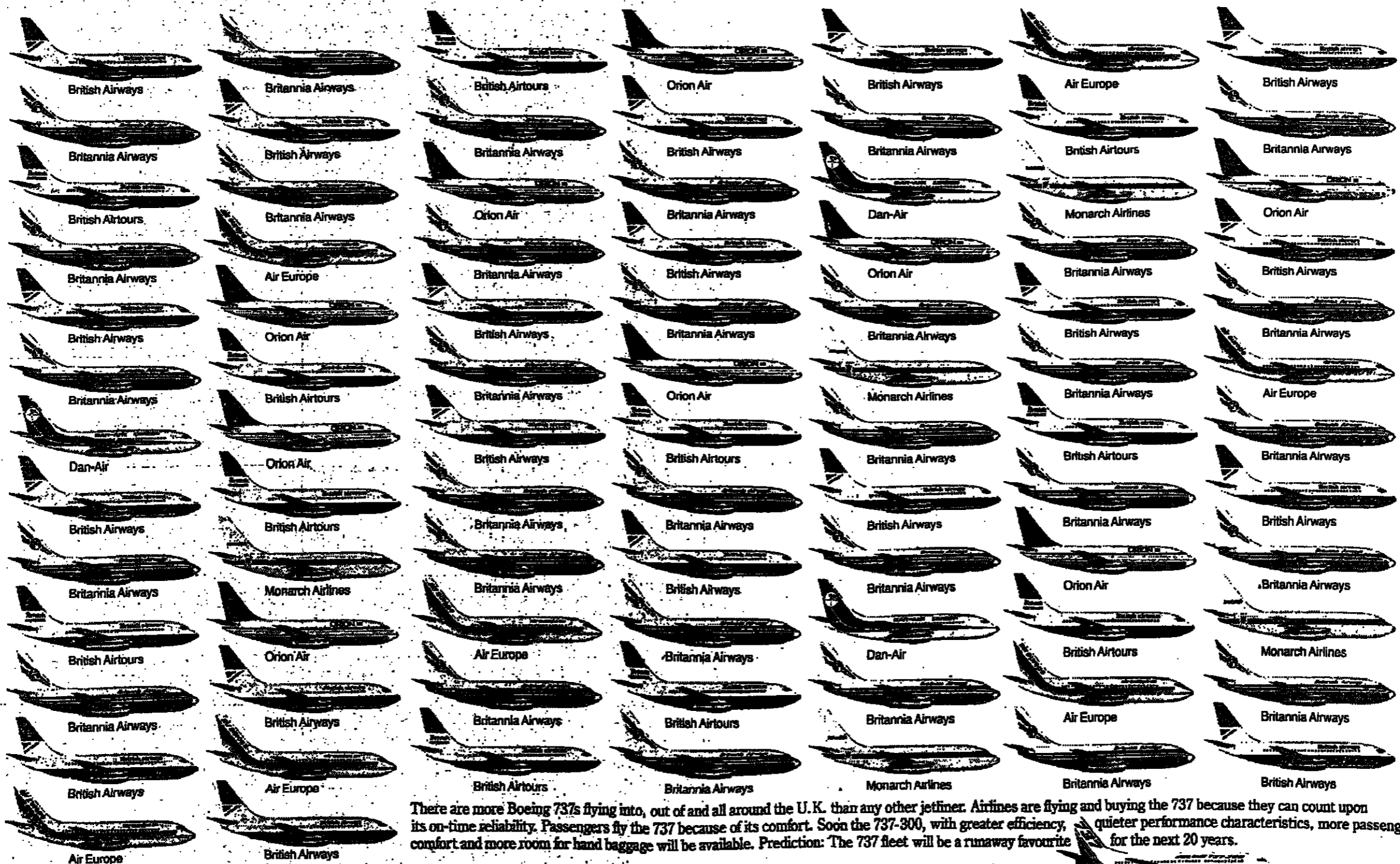
London is kind, however. In no time he moves in with the red-wigged miniskirted Nellie (Barbara Rosenblatt) whose "ample acreage" won her the Golden-Hearted Whore of the Year Trophy in 1975, has his own chat show and wears his filthy old man to a Royal Garden Party where the Queen (Elizabeth Kelly) addresses him graciously and is rewarded with a piece of cold tripe. Only a stress-induced addiction to Soapo (a remarkable washing-up liquid running at 97 degrees proof) prevents his being elected Prime Minister as "a shining example of northern grit". But rest assured that we do get to Wembley and that the male voice choirs from nearby Rossendale and Radcliffe have the time of their lives competitively coughing "Yellow Submarine" and the Hebrews Chorus from *Nabucco*.

Some episodes are flat or poorly motivated and this plot still has infinite untapped possibilities. Brian Jacques's songs, though enjoyable and musical, are too leisurely and their brass quartet scoring drowns the voices. But they still have a hit here. And the theatre shop surely ought to sell bottled Grindley's smoke to take home. How else can I breathe in Kensington?

Anthony Masters

FLY THE LEADER.

The largest fleet in the U.K.



BOEING
Getting people together.

JUNE 83 Behind every would-be Prime Minister is a would-be Kitchen Cabinet. This week The Times looks at the campaign leaders and their advisers. First, Peter Stothard on Mrs Thatcher's team

Off to work they go

To close observers of Downing Street life one of the first signs of a summer election came in February with the news that a certain Alison Ward had been asked not to arrange her holidays for June. The object of this attention was at that time not even working for the Prime Minister. She had been a forceful constituency secretary for Mrs Thatcher in the late 1960s and early 1970s. She had left to become secretary to Sir John Clark at Plessey and to Tory Party Treasurer Alistair McAlpine. She was not expecting to return to the political front line.

The Prime Minister, however, had other ideas. Her concern was that her most trusted personal assistant, Caroline Stevens, had a baby in the offing and a candidate for a husband, former Number Ten political secretary Richard Ryder, who would need a candidate's wife to help with flesh-peddling around the constituency. Alison Ward was first choice to stand by for election tour duty. She quickly agreed and an early ripple of speculation was launched to well-informed MPs and would-be MPs - also to all the many others who felt that they too should play a part in the backroom battle to elect their leader.

From typists to speechwriters, from fact-gatherers to muck-spreaders, the team that will guide Mrs Thatcher's personal path to the poll on June 9 is now almost complete. As we will show in this series over the next two days, the rival party leaders have very different attitudes to advisers and the advice that they give. But there are important similarities, too. Nothing is more dangerous in a short campaign than the unexpected disaster that can come from the tiniest of causes. If the campaign teams can simply keep their bosses off the banana skins they will more than earn their keep. And if that means having some of the highest-qualified handbag-holders and travel agents in history, no price will be too high - at least for the Tories.

Perhaps the most famous of the high-earning Thatcher men is set to arrive in London tomorrow. If Alison Ward could be made ready for the campaign in comparative secrecy, Gordon Reece, the flamboyant public relations man who masterminded Mrs Thatcher's image in 1979, could not. It is said that the Prime Minister deliberately asked him to stay in the United States (where he has been for several years working for the industrialist and art collector Armand Ham-

mer) until the announcement of the election had been made. As one colleague put it: "Gordon had only to get within a hundred miles of Land's End for poll fever to become an epidemic."

So not until Wednesday does Reece rejoin a team which at the moment looks roughly as follows. Among what becomes a virtual personal staff will be her parliamentary private secretary Ian Gow and a party vice chairman, Michael Spicer, Sir Ronald Miller and Ferdinand Mount as speechwriters; David Wolfson, her chief of staff; Stephen Sherbourne who will conduct her breakfast briefing, John Whittingdale, head of the political section in the research department, who will provide up-to-date facts and figures on tour and the highly experienced party officer, Roger Boaden, who for the fifth time will be organizing a Tory leader's tour logistics.

On the surface, both the names of the advisers and their strategy might appear simple enough. The view is widely held within the Tory Party that the policy is clear, the opinion polls massively and firmly in their favour, the opposition in disarray and that the job for Mrs Thatcher's team is little more than to steer a straight course to victory. But as seen from inside the Thatcher camp, it does not look that way at all.

Today - which in the militaristic terminology employed by Roger Boaden and his men is known as "D-day minus 24" - the focus of uncertainty is the arrival of Gordon Reece. To paraphrase the words of an earlier Tory Prime Minister, he may not terrify the opposition parties but he certainly frightens his own side. The late entrance of last time's hero has in a curious way, thrown up all sorts of doubts about this campaign, how different it is from 1979, how different the country is, how different she is. As one senior participant put it last week: "Will Gordon realize how much has changed, how electing a prime minister differs from electing an opposition leader, how the old battles don't need to be fought all over again?"

It is reluctantly accepted amongst the current advisers that Reece is a man in whom she has complete personal trust. Although no fan of his Ronnie Corbett looks and high



lifestyle, the fine champagnes and the big cigars, she associates his judgement with her victory. As another close observer puts it: "If Labour narrows the gap (as it surely must), and if the Alliance looks threatening (which it must on at least one day) Gordon Reece could rock what is a carefully prepared boat."

A Tory critic put it more crudely: "There is so much more at stake for Thatcher's people now. There is no one to equal her; they are not so much advisers in a common cause as aides waiting for patronage. They are worried that when the going gets rough Gordon may take away their rewards for four years' service. And because of the ideological purges, there is hardly anyone there who has fought an election at this level. It's like an Isthmian league side with one world class player."

The first official meeting in the Prime Minister's electioneering day will be with her party chairman, Cecil Parkinson, and the 37-year-old economist and political adviser, Stephen Sherbourne who on Friday left - possibly for ever - his publicly paid job in Patrick Jenkin's office at the Department of Industry. Sherbourne is one of the most experienced survivors in a Research Department class that was highly regarded under Edward Heath, but has been the object of his downgrading and suspicion by Mrs

Thatcher. He and Parkinson will brief her on issues that have arisen overnight and points that are likely to come up at the 9.30 am press conference. Anthony S. Insmley, former Now! editor, head of press and publicity, also be in attendance.

If she is travelling to an engagement out of London, this job of continuous briefing of opposition statements and the finding of facts and figures with which to counter them, passes to John Whittingdale, the recently appointed head of the Research Department's political section. Whittingdale is a surprise appointment, a 23-year-old Wykehamist known to his friends alternatively as "Mole" or "Bat". He joined the party five years ago as a "library boy", collecting cuttings and politically useful information for the Research Department. Counter to the old departmental trend he has impeccable "dry" economic credentials.

The choice of this very young man to travel with the Prime Minister in such a position has already raised a few eyebrows. To critics it underlines still further the cheapskate back-up which the Research Department can now provide.

Some of the biggest arguments are about where the Prime Minister goes and what she does when she gets there. It is already clear that there are to be fewer overnight stops than in 1979,

"less crashing around in ghastly airport hotels" as one erstwhile sufferer put it. Her programme over the past few months has been carefully planned so that in the event of a short campaign she would not have to return to every major city. The choice of sites for key rallies is a bit like choosing grounds for test matches. Certain ones are inevitable but others need not be taken up every time. Manchester, Birmingham and Cardiff and Glasgow are essential. Leeds may not get another turn. There is a strong strain of advice from Parkinson and the party bureaucracy that in the closing days of the campaign - from D-day minus 4 - she should play to her strength - in the south-east - and not attempt a barnstorming assault on the enemy re-doubt. But such decisions may be overturned several times before the final choice has to be made. A Prime Minister even has a perfect security cover for late changes in itinerary.

Security considerations also affect the locations and frequency of the "walkabouts" at which Mrs Thatcher so excelled in 1979. They may be fewer of these at the beginning of the campaign this time - and Parkinson's team are making plans for them to avoid confined spaces such as

shopping arcades which give too great an opportunity to organized opposition.

As for the choice of transport, Mrs Thatcher has a well-known aversion to trains. She has also turned down a benefactor's offer of a McDonnell Douglas aircraft for the campaign on the grounds that it would not be right for her to travel in a non-British plane. The services of Sir Hector Laing's United Biscuits' aircraft are likely to be called upon again. And in charge of implementing the chosen itinerary will be the indefatigable Boaden who first did the job for Edward Heath 13 years ago and who not even the most jealous onlooker could say was the wrong man for the task ahead.

No one has the absolute job of chief of the Prime Minister's touring party. The title of joint major domo on the political side goes to a cox-and-box partnership between Ian Gow, Mrs Thatcher's Parliamentary Private Secretary and Michael Spicer, economist, party vice-chairman, and the man responsible for wielding the Parkinson axe to cut staff costs inside Central Office. Both have seats that require little tending - let alone fighting - Gow amongst the pensioners of Eastbourne and Spicer amongst the Worcestershire fruitfarmers. Gow looks like a stern Victorian solicitor with bald pate, waistcoat and watch chain and is much happier in green baize corridors than drafty provincial halls. Spicer is a tough-minded economist who - excepting an unfortunate venture into political fiction writing - has a much better record in the art of being most things to most men. Each plans to be with the Prime Minister about half the time.

Spicer has some reputation as a cajoler and calmer of political women - having cut his teeth as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sally Oppenheim. The doyen of this art, however - at least according to legend - is David Wolfson, who for the past four years has been Mrs Thatcher's chief of staff in Downing Street. Facts about his exact role are exceedingly hard to come by. When he turned up in Jerusalem earlier this year as a special emissary to Mr Begin, it was the first firm fact about his job in four years. Nonetheless he is apparently a brilliant soother of the prime ministerial brow. Along with his wife Sue who will help with Mrs Thatcher's clothes, he is likely to be with her throughout.

Along the campaign trail there are, of course, speeches to be written and amended in the light of changing tactics and events. Six main texts are likely to be prepared in advance - each on a central issue - so far including nuclear disarmament, unemployment and social services. Ferdinand Mount, the head of the Downing Street Policy Unit, seems likely to stay in London to coordinate these. Sir Ronald Miller, the playwright and famous phrase maker will travel with her to suit that night's text to the precise effect it is desired to achieve.

The man who gave the country "U-turn if you like, the lady's not for turning" no doubt has some other gems in his typewriter. But Miller is much more than an embroiderer of party-back prose. He has a close personal rapport with her and, if anyone in the team can stand before her and say that her performances are off beam or below par, it is he. Miller is also likely to have an important hand in the crucial last party political broadcast. He is a close associate of Gordon Reece and, if the campaign ever risks sinking into the "Steady as you go" complacency that critical observers fear, these two "veterans", as Cecil Parkinson calls them, will be the men most likely to pull the act out of the doldrums.

Later this week the Thatcher circus leaves town - in all its glitter and nervousness. In what is hoped will be the last piece of pre-election bad-touring, visitors to Conservative Central Office last Wednesday had to step over piles of old carpet which, thanks to an anonymous benefactor was being turned out in favour of a splendid blue-and-cream diamond patterned replacement. "Just in time for Maggie's victory celebration," suggested a journalist to one of many harassed officials. "Someone's just said it's for Gordon Reece," came the reply.

All the Prime Minister's men



Ian Gow: Parliamentary private secretary

Michael Spicer: half-time on the trail

Gordon Reece: Public relations mastermind

Anthony S. Insmley: Press and communications chief

Ferdinand Mount: speech writer in London

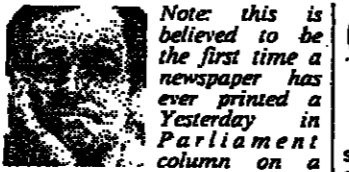
David Wolfson: a great calmer of nerves

John Whittingdale: controversial young appointment

Sir Ronald Miller: more than just a speechwriter

Yesterday in Parliament

MOREOVER... Miles Kingston



Note: this is believed to be the first time a newspaper has ever printed a photograph of a Member of Parliament in a column on a Monday.

Business commenced at 11.18. Those present included the Cleaner of the House, the Deputy Cleaner, the Gentleman Polisher and the Bag Boy.

The Cleaner of the House said she wished to draw the House's attention to the mess left behind by the members of Parliament. She had worked in some untidy offices in her day, notably in the newspaper industry, but she had never seen anything like the rubbish left behind by the elected representatives of the House of Commons. If this was the way they treated the Chamber, she wanted to know, then how did they look after the country?

The Deputy Cleaner agreed and said that the amount of empty wrappers reminded her of Hampstead Heath after a Bank Holiday. She said that something should be done about it. For instance, she had just found a champagne bottle under a seat.

The Gentlemen Polisher wanted to know if there was anything left in it.

Deputy Cleaner: "No." The Cleaner of the House said the cleanest place she had ever worked at was a lost property office in a big station. The people who worked there knew that if they ever left anything lying around, it would only be handed in to them.

The Deputy Cleaner showed the House a file she had just found and revealed that it was marked "Highly Confidential". She accused the Government of acting in a manner prejudicial to the national interest. She added that she also blamed the Opposition, the Alliance and that messy man from Northern Ireland whose name she could never remember, the one who left all the Guinness bottles. She wanted to know what she ought to do with the confidential file.

Gentleman Polisher: "Is there anything in it?" Deputy Cleaner (after a pause): "Sandwiches." (Laughter.)

The Bag Boy, in his maiden speech in the House, asked where the Queen sat when she made her speech.

Deputy Cleaner: "Over there." Cleaner of the House: "The

decision of Mrs Thatcher to hold a general election is certainly a good one. It gives us of the Parliamentary workforce a bit of time to clear up before the next batch of elected rogues come pouring in." She went on to say that she hoped Mrs Thatcher would be re-elected, as she liked a woman's touch about the House.

The Deputy Cleaner disagreed, saying that it didn't matter who got in. They were all the same, they all made a mess of things.

The Gentleman Polisher said she showed a lot of cynicism for one so young.

Deputy Cleaner: "Get you, Brasso fingers." The Bag Boy (sitting where the Queen sat) "My Government intends to bring in savage legislation to prevent MPs from leaving litter around. Any MP found dropping rubbish will be fined £1,000 and have his nose rubbed in it. I also intend to raise the wages of the Westminster Bag Boy to £50,000 a year and have him created Lord Waste Paper of Basket."

The Gentleman Polisher ruled these remarks out of order, saying that they showed

disrespect to the House and the Royal Family. He gave him a clip round the earhole.

The Deputy Cleaner said she would give a lot to know which one of them stuck chewing gum under his seat.

Gentleman Polisher: "What flavour?"

The Cleaner of the House said that Old Spit and Polish seemed to have an obsession with food and drink.

The Gentleman Polisher said he was sorry, but it must be nostalgia for the old place. He had until recently been an MP himself, but had failed to win re-election in his constituency and had fallen on evil days, now being reduced to menial tasks about Westminster. He produced a bottle from his pocket and asked if anyone wanted a dram.

The Cleaner said no, personally, but she was dying for a bag and a cup of tea. She proposed that the business of the House be adjourned for 15 minutes while refreshment was taken.

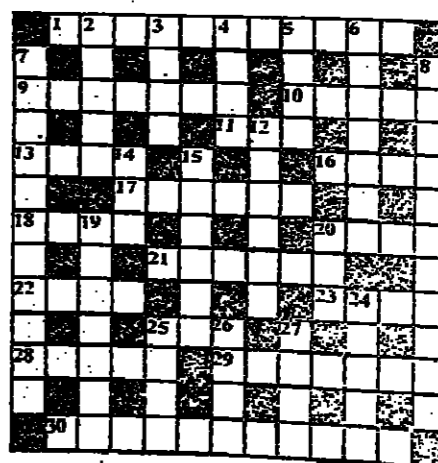
The result of the voting on this motion was three for, one against and one abstention, the Bag Boy being now asleep in the place where the Queen sat. The House rose at 11.43, the Bag Boy being removed by the ear by the Gentleman Polisher.

TOMORROW

Nicholas Wapshott looks at the men around Michael Foot as the Labour Party struggles to arrange its affairs for an effective election fight

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 60)

- ACROSS
1 Cross label (5,6)
9 Information seller (7)
10 Fashion (5)
11 Payment (3)
12 At that time (4)
13 Fleur-de-lis (4)
14 Breathe in (6)
15 Eject (4)
16 Occur in union (4)
17 Blood fluid (6)
18 Debt note (4)
19 Chinese money (4)
20 Fastener (3)
21 Viral disease (5)
22 Makes possible (7)
23 Goods count (11)
DOWN
2 Indian coin (5)
3 Quote (4)
4 Sod (6)
5 Hollow (4)
6 Keenly (7)
7 Sound transmitter (11)
8 Mail de mer (11)
SOLUTION TO No 59
ACROSS: 1 Counsel 5 Valid 8 IRA 9 Plumbob 10 News 11 Spit 12 Leaguer 14 Reminiscently 16 Nodding 18 Rack 21 Excel 22 Opulent 23 Lab 24 Yummy 25 Elderly
DOWN: 1 Cape 2 Usurp 3 Substantially 4 Libel 5 Vantage ground 6 Lawruit 7 Destroys 13 Orangerie 15 Modicum 17 Globe 19 Clear 20 Stay



- 12 Join in (6)
13 Louise egg (3)
14 Hot pod (6)
15 Frying pan (7)
16 Utter (3)
24 Polish lancer (5)
25 Having life (4)
26 Animal hide (4)
27 Recreational land (4)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise.



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— an occasional commentary on Important Events — Derby Day

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No, Henry, that's his name — Hampers. Don't argue, dear. I know it's his name because when I ring Fortnums and ask for Hampers, they put me straight through to him.

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PROFILE: Quentin Bell

Who's afraid for Virginia Woolf?

Down in his potter's studio, the emeritus professor of the History and Theory of Art is hard at it assembling an exhibition of his work. It makes a change from setting the record straight on his misunderstood aunt.

To discover the powerhouse of one of England's enduring export industries it is necessary to penetrate deepest Sussex, into the lazy green countryside that spreads beneath the South Downs, and into an English country garden all set about with terracotta statues in the Italian manner.

Cobbe Place is the home of Quentin Bell and his wife, Anne Olivier Bell. Two miles in one direction lies Monk's House, five miles in the other is Charleston. This is the heart of the Virginia Woolf belt.

Quentin, Virginia's nephew, now aged 73, balding and massively white-bearded like a storybook mad professor, emerged from his potter's studio in overalls and wellingtons, patting off clouds of white dust. The emeritus professor of the History and Theory of Art at Sussex University was busily engaged in assembling an exhibition of his work for display at Liberty's in London to coincide with the publication of his latest book, *Techniques of Terracotta*, which has nothing whatsoever to do with his aunt.

But the spectre of Virginia will not go away. Since Quentin published his definitive two-volume biography of her more than ten years ago, Woolf-dissection, particularly on the Eng. Lit. campuses of the United States, has become a British export success on a par with Dimple Haig and the Harrier jump jet.

Quentin, it must be said, does not care for much of it. "When Leonard Woolf asked me to do the biography in 1966, it was a task I took on very unwillingly. I was very much torn, because there is always a feeling of suspicion on the part of the reader about biographies written by close members of the subject's family."

"On the other hand, one knows what is probable. I am very glad that I did it now; people really had the wildest ideas about her. It is a good thing that there should be a record which, whatever its other faults, is substantially true."

Although the work was received enthusiastically by a majority of reviewers at the time, it has come under full frontal attack since, particularly from feminists. Quentin has become well used to fusillades of male chauvinist piggy.

"People feel very passionately about Virginia, particularly women; they have some image of her that they want, and they find it very painful at times to recognize that the facts do not bear them out. I am

afraid my book is quite unacceptable to many people."

Virginia has become almost a Joan of Arc figure to some sections of the feminist movement. Germaine Greer once paid a visit to Cobbe Place and told Quentin and his wife Anne Olivier Bell, a second cousin of Lord Olivier, that they were operating an illegal closed shop in the Virginia Woolf industry.

Quentin is not amused. "Those feminists are misinterpreting her, and they find my work unacceptable because it does not give them the impression they want. That doesn't matter: what does worry me is that some of the things that are appearing in the name of scholarship are quite crazy, and there is a danger that the whole of Woolf scholarship will become a joke. Some women believe she was a Marxist, and you will have noticed the really lunatic speculation in *The Times Literary Supplement* that Leonard tried to murder Virginia."

The controversy has brought an endless stream of earnest Americans to the Bells' door, although the procession is now beginning to tail off.

Quentin has no intention of writing anything ever again about his aunt, but he is still concerned to put the record straight.

"The Americans have seized on her as a great protagonist of feminism. She has a certain universal appeal in that people can find anything they want in her. Of course feminism was a very strong trait in her, but it is grossly exaggerated. She was very interested in the wrongs of her sex, and rightly so, but it is ridiculous to suggest that she was primarily a feminist. She was, first and foremost, a novelist."

"Anyway," said Quentin, rising to pour coffee into a variety of thick-lipped cups, all wildly different and all made by himself. "Why don't you ask my wife? She knows more about Virginia than anyone else alive."

Anne Olivier first became involved when she undertook the donkey-work of organizing the Woolf diaries to assist Quentin with producing the biography. Now she has edited and produced four volumes of the diaries herself, and is currently at work on the fifth and final volume.

"I never spoke to Virginia in my life. I saw her only once, across a room at a party. It was a wonderful image of a beautiful, distinguished and riveting figure in a long red dress. A vision. But an impression? No. I go with my nose through the text of her diaries; I am not good at taking a long term view."



Quentin Bell's career
Born August 19 1910
Second son of Clive Bell and Vanessa Stephen
Educated Leighton Park
1941-43 Political warfare executive
1952 Lecturer in Art Education, King's College, Newcastle
1958 Senior lecturer
1962-67 Professor of Fine Art, University of Leeds
1964-65 Slade Professor of Fine Art, Oxford University
1965-66 Ferens Professor of Fine Art, Hull University
1967-75 Professor of History and Theory of Art, Sussex University
His books
1947 On Human Finery
1951 Those Impossible English (with Helmut Gernsheim)
1961 Roger Montane
1963 The Schools of Design
1965 Ruskin
1967 Victorian Artists
1968 Bloomsbury
1972 Virginia Woolf, a Biography (James Tait Black Memorial Prize; Duff Cooper Memorial Prize)
1982 A New and Noble School

But if you were born into Bloomsbury, you cannot entirely shuffle off the coil. Anne Olivier leads the visitor through the rambling house, said by Pevsner to be Elizabethan in parts, and proudly shows off walls hung with Duncan Grants, and a photograph of the Bell's 27-year old daughter Virginia.

The saying grace is in the downstairs lavatory, where hangs a Mark Boxer cartoon from *The Times* showing a Hampstead fluffist gazing at a pile of Woolf books. "Afraid of no. Marginally bored with, yes," says the caption.

The same, one suspects, might be said of Quentin. He is charming, patient, even witty, to all enquiries about his aunt, but he would really rather talk about his pottery and sculpture, a field in which he has found the means to break free from the shackles of his upbringing. A stroll round the delightful garden

ends at a brick plinth in the middle of a rose bed, on which reposes a bronze-effect glass fibre figure in fantastic pose, entirely horizontal in mid air in her pre-Raphaelite drapery, supported only by her tumbling headless, like those equestrian statues which rely for their stability on the horse's tail.

"What most pleased me about that," says Quentin, "is that the odd-job man who put it up for me said he liked it." He is, he says, demotic rather than elitist: he sculpts and paints in a language everyone can understand. I profess not to understand a woman in glass fibre apparently performing a feat of levitation in the middle of his rose patch, supported by an excrecence growing from her left ear, although I hasten to add that I agree with the odd-job man.

"Well, I suppose it could be an advertisement for an airline, or for

hair lacquer," says Quentin. "But I try to combine reality with the quality of dreams."

His pottery is different, and to the untutored eye much of it has the quality of what appears to be a school class only recently grown out of plasticine. His medium is terracotta, which he chooses for its boldness and its ability to take brilliant bright colours. Others will be able to judge when it goes on show at Liberty's later this month.

Quentin, at 73, is also working in his first novel. "Well actually I've written dozens, but this is the first one I've thought worthy of being published."

Will it bear any relation to a Virginia Woolf novel?

"Oh, absolutely none. It will have a certain amount of sex and violence in it, but it does not contain a single word that would offend the purest-

minded virgin of the last century. It is like my sculpture: there is a quality of dream, together with a certain realism."

Not unlike being the nephew of an outrageously famous aunt, really: for Quentin Bell, it is the occasional shafts of realism that are most welcome, like that of the lady in Milwaukee who had been corresponding with him for years about his art criticism, and who finally mentioned at the end of a letter: "By the way, I gather you also know something about Virginia Woolf."

Quentin Bell enjoyed that.

* *Techniques of Terracotta*, by Quentin Bell. Chatto and Windus/The Hogarth Press. To be published on May 26, price £4.95.

The Quentin Bell exhibition is at Liberty's, Regent Street, London, from May 26 until June 10.

Alan Hamilton

FINDINGS

A weekly series reporting on research: VICTORIANS

The other side of Victoriana



Angered by what they regard as Mrs Thatcher's unhistorical usurpation of Victorian values, a group of socialist historians is going on the offensive to present an alternative view of what nineteenth century Britain was all about.

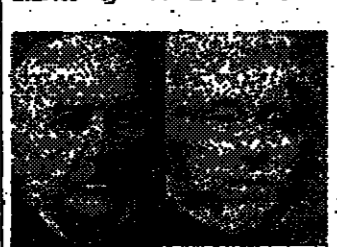
An all day workshop at Ruskin College, Oxford, next Sunday (May 22) will feature talks on such themes as the Two Nations of Victorian Britain, self-help, servitude and segregation, patriarchy and the family, and Victorian racism. The idea for the meeting, which is being sponsored by the New Statesman, came from the History Workshop Collective which publishes a lively journal of socialist history and runs annual workshops relating contemporary political and social movements to historical trends. Raphael Samuel, the collective's spokesman says: "I suppose this meeting reflects our indignation as historians at the way in which values which we know to have been deeply divisive and contradictory are being presented as though they were a unified whole. The Victorian period is now playing the same kind of symbolic role in our society as the idea of Merrie England did in the period of the Industrial Revolution. It constitutes a kind of golden age which is in reality a complete myth. Indeed, for Mrs Thatcher it represents a lost childhood. She has conflated her memories of the 1930's with an idealized picture of the Victorian Age. In fact, as we hope to show, Victorian England was a divided and distant society which can't just be invoked to provide a set of guiding principles for our own age."

Lavish style

Somewhat surprisingly in these austere and cost-conscious times, the fashion in historical biography seems to be swinging back to the grand Victorian style. Two of the leading statesmen of nineteenth century Britain are currently being subjected to the kind of blockbuster treatment hitherto associated with a more leisurely age.

At the end of last year Allen Lane brought out the first of two volumes on Palmerston by Kenneth Bourne, itself bigger than most single-volume studies. Professor Bourne has used the ample space available to him to go into considerable detail over that part of Pam's life which he describes as *The Ruling Passion*. Numerous early morning liaisons in gardens and bedrooms are chronicled in Italian in the politician's diaries.

How different are the nocturnal affairs tersely recorded in the diaries of W. E. Gladstone



Gladstone and Palmerston

which loom large in the first volume of the massive study of the Liberal politician by Richard Shannon recently published by Hamish Hamilton. There are no less than fifteen references to prostitutes in the index of this first volume. Professor Shannon is fairly certain that Gladstone did not have explicitly sexual relations with the girls on whom he practised his 'rescue' work, but his habit of self-flagellation after several of his encounters, revealed in the recently published diaries, makes clear that there was a clear psycho-sexual element in them.

Ring changes

A substantial reassessment of the impact of the Oxford Movement on the development of the Church of England is likely to result from a series of events taking place this summer to mark the centenary of the start of the Tractarian Revival.

Traditionally, the Oxford Movement has perhaps been associated principally with the introduction of 'bells and smells' and other ritualistic practices into Anglican worship. A major conference at Keele College, Oxford, in July aims to correct this limited and unbalanced

view by focusing on the spirituality and sociology of the Tractarians.

Meanwhile, in a pamphlet just published by the Kent County Archives Office, Kent and the Oxford Movement, Nigel Yates, the county archivist, argues that the movement transformed the Church of England from being an inward-looking body, very much dependent on its links with the state, to a much more assertive and independent body, prepared to take considerable initiative on political and social issues as well as religious matters.

Mr Yates has organized an exhibition on the Oxford Movement in Kent which will tour the county throughout the summer. There will also be lectures by distinguished church historians.

The actual anniversary of the event which launched the Oxford Movement, the preaching of the Assize Sermon in the University Church by John Keble is being celebrated by an outdoor enchanter presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the University Parks on July 16.

Unchained

From High Church to Low. The celebration of another notable anniversary in British religious history is producing an equally significant reinterpretation of a well known figure.

William Wilberforce, the most prominent Evangelical layman of his age, the leader of the small group of MPs known as 'The Saints' and, as every schoolboy knows, the man who led the agitation against the slave trade, died 150 years ago this July. The University of Hull, his native city, is staging an impressive number of events to mark the anniversary, ranging from a commemorative cricket match between Yorkshire and the West Indies on June 3 to an international conference on the legacies of West Indian slavery at the end of July.

A series of lectures already held at the University has indicated that a reassessment of Wilberforce's position in history might be overdue. Dr

James Walvin, senior lecturer in history at the University of York, suggested that the role of the Evangelical campaigners in securing the abolition of slavery was not as great as has traditionally been thought. Other speakers argued that Wilberforce should perhaps be remembered less as the man who freed the slaves and more as the model Christian statesman who infused Victorian politicians with notions of morality and righteous causes, or as the "Father of the Victorians" who played a key role in establishing such institutions as family prayers and observance of the Sabbath.

Proud preservers

The Victorian Society is celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday this year by patting itself modestly on the back for its part in helping to save some of Britain's most important nineteenth century buildings and generally raising the level of public appreciation for one of the most inventive periods in our architectural development.

The Society regards as its greatest success the preservation of the Government buildings at the western end of Whitehall which were seriously threatened in 1965 by a plan to create a massive new Government centre. It has also helped to save, at least for the time being, the engine shed of Liverpool Street Station and the eastern galleries of Waterhouse's Natural History Museum, although both are still threatened by eventual redevelopment.

Outside London, the society is proud of its role in helping to prevent the destruction of the General Post Office in Birmingham. It and other major buildings in the city, will be toured in a special walk on September 24 entitled 'Hard Won Successes' and led by the society's chairman, Alan Crawford.

The society is all too aware of its failures over the last quarter century which include such great Victorian constructions as the Great Hall and arch of Euston Station which have disappeared. At the moment it is concerned about the fate of Thoresby Hall in Nottinghamshire, which was bought by the Coal Board in 1980, and is now gradually crumbling as a coal seam is mined under its foundations.

Ian Bradley



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THE TIMES DIARY

Grape shot

Today's candidate, whom I usher in from the political fringe, is an old friend, the wine writer T. A. (Tommy) Layton. He will be contesting Hove for his own Save the Earth Party. His "six good reasons to send me to Parliament", he says in his election address, are really all one: "a plea for legislation to slow down the earth and give our planet a chance to revitalize itself before it dies." Layton specifically denies that he is a crackpot, though the picture he has sent me shows only half his head from the cheekbones down. His answer to unemployment is short too: "Ban the word from the dictionary and call it early retirement instead." He is shaving off his much-loved beard to improve his campaign image, and says his friend Clement Freud thinks he has a good chance of winning the seat from the incumbent Tory. "He has invited me up to the Commons so he can show me where I will be sitting."

Floating fund

Matthew Middlemiss, captain of boats at Christ's College, Cambridge, tells me that the 153-year-old Christ's Boat Club is at the brink of bankruptcy. Last week the present Blue boat coxswain was substituting in the Christ's 1st eight and took the opportunity to hit a large, removing six feet from the bows of the club's brand new boat, recently christened by Countess Mountbatten in honour of her late father. For the boat to be repaired it has to go back to West Germany. The club is making an emergency appeal to its old Boaters.

Subman's holiday

Making his farewell at the Eastbourne annual conference of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants today is the deputy general secretary, Bill Wright, who has looked after the Ministry of Defence for 20 years. Next week he travels to Norway for a retirement holiday, to the Hardanger fjord into which the Royal Norwegian Navy has been pouring large quantities of explosives in the hope of dislodging a suspected Russian submarine. If anybody could find it, Wright's friends at the Anti-Submarine Warfare Establishment at Portland could. Perhaps he should wander down to the fjord side and offer their services.

Common Market jargon is dismaying even supporters of Europeanism. As a leading member of the Union of European Federalists put it at a recent rally: "How can the electors feel love or affection for an organization which refers to flowers as 'non-edible vegetables'?"

Fortherecord

Middle East political thrillers by British authors are setting new publishing records in New York. Following Le Carré's republication sale of 40,000 copies of *The Little Drummer Girl* for Knopf, Crown have risked printing 50,000 copies of a lengthy first novel by an unknown television scriptwriter, Morris Farhi. The book, *The Last of Days*, is 560 pages long - less than half Farhi's intended length - and will appear here next week under the Bodley Head imprint. Its bulk, however, has proved no deterrent in the US; more than 20,000 copies have sold during its first two weeks.

Moral support

What a mingling of good causes yesterday morning up on Hampstead Heath: a dog-walk in aid of spastics, a sponsored plod for the British Heart Foundation, and, suddenly, Michael Foot and his dog Dizzy. The Labour leader did not join the 70 soaking joggers on their 12-mile course, but did make encouraging noises and donated towards the £3,000 total.

Slipping...

I am relieved, but frankly surprised, to have had only one reproach for inadvertently attributing Mark Antony's funeral oration to Brutus in my recent report of David Owen's speech at Hampstead town hall. It is unusual for my readers to be so slack in spotting my slips and crowding over them. Appropriately, the one correction to hand comes from Toby Mason, the prefect of hall at Winchester College, and mercifully he is very nice about it.

Paper mate

The paperless office, the database society, the cashless society, the office at home - are more or less upon us, proclaims the *Penguin Dictionary of Telecommunications*, published later this month. The author is John Graham, but his wife Diane must know all about it as well, especially the office at home, though not a paperless one. Graham's acknowledgement goes to "my wife Diane, who had to read, correct, index and sequence all the text and type the final manuscript." None of which, supposedly, could be done by the new communications technology he was cataloguing.

Karl von Wagan, a stable troubled Christian Democrat Euro MP, is giving up his electric razor in exasperation. In London last week with a European Parliamentary delegation to discuss the removal of internal trade barriers, he was talking anyone who cared to listen that the profession of different phobias sizes in member nations had driven him back to the safety razor. With the EEC talking itself on such basics, what possible hope can there be for energy, transport, customs duties and all the rest?

PHS

East-West trade: will the deal stick?

Washington East-West trade, the issue until only a few months ago threatening the unity of the Atlantic alliance, will not be a bone of contention at the Williamsburg economic summit at the end of this month.

That is official. The Americans are saying so in public, so are the Europeans. The way the matter was handled at last week's ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris would seem to bear this out.

Yet despite the harmonious chords which have echoed from the recent meetings of the OECD, the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (known as Cocom) and the International Energy Agency, a feeling still persists that East-West trade will remain a divisive issue for some time to come. Some Europeans privately concede there will be more sniping across the Atlantic later this year.

Mr Lionel Olmer, the US Under Secretary for International Trade, does not agree. "I feel persuaded that the East-West trade issue... is not going to be long for this world as an agenda item," he said during an interview after his return from the OECD meeting.

Since last year's row over the Soviet gas pipeline serious thinking has been taking place on both sides of the Atlantic about the value to the West of trade with the Soviet block and the military benefits which the Soviet Union frequently derives by importing high technology imports from the West.

This thinking has centred on the "studies" initiated last autumn as a result of the compromise worked out by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, which led to the Reagan Administration agreeing to lift the embargo on European suppliers of equipment for the Soviet pipeline.

Most of the studies, which dealt with energy, credits, technology transfers and the broader economic

and military implications of East-West trade, have been completed or are at an advanced stage. Although they contain little in the way of firm recommendations they have produced broad agreement on the need for trade with the Soviet block to be more carefully monitored and regulated by the western allies.

Some analysts believe the present display of harmony is largely cosmetic and is designed to prevent a repetition of the acrimonious exchanges which marked last year's summit at Versailles. "They have only papered over the cracks, but really nothing has been resolved," commented one American observer.

These cracks could appear in a number of ways. First, there is the possibility of "linkage" at the Williamsburg meeting itself - that one of the participants may threaten to make an issue of East-West trade if it feels it is not getting its way on other matters such as exchange rates, interest rates or protectionism.

Cracks could develop when the haggling starts in earnest on the additional high-technology items which would be included in Cocom's list of export controls. Mr Olmer argued that the recent Cocom meeting in Paris had demonstrated the political will to "beef up the resources to make Cocom a more effective organization" and to investigate and punish violators.

But he conceded that it will take time and a lot more discussion to get

agreement about what items should be included and which ones taken off the list of restricted exports.

The US wants to shorten the Cocom list by eliminating, as he put it, "the lower end of the technological spectrum in return for new controls at the top end." Among the items the US wants to see included on the list are gas turbine engines, electronic grade silicon, printed circuit board technology, robotics, communications switching equipment and computer hardware and software. The Europeans object to the inclusion of some of these items.

This need not be too contentious if the haggling were left to officials from the State Department and the Department of Commerce who are sensitive to European concerns. However the Pentagon sees things differently and has consistently called for much tougher restrictions on trade with the Soviet block. Pentagon officials have advocated placing items which contain even the simplest form of microprocessor on the list of banned exports.

Conflicts between hard-line right-wingers and the more pragmatic members of the Reagan Administration also form the background to a third area of possible dissension between the US and the Europeans. This centres on American plans to extend the Export Administration Act when it comes up for renewal this September.

This is the Act under which the

pipeline sanctions were imposed last year. The Reagan Administration is to seek to tighten it by investing the President with even greater authority to restrict the flow of goods from both America and European companies to the Soviet block.

Earlier this month the European Community filed an unusually strong protest expressing its "deep abiding concern" over the new American proposals. Last week Sir Oliver Wright, the British Ambassador, warned that "the alliance may be steering into trouble here." He said the Europeans particularly objected to the extra-territorial and retroactive elements of the legislation.

The Bill which is now before Congress was originally much tougher, but has been substantially watered down by administration pragmatists, led by Mr Olmer, who recognized that it would provoke immediate confrontation with the European allies. However there is concern that hard-liners on strategic trade, such as Mr William Clark, the National Security Adviser and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, could still ensure it is toughened up again.

Mr Olmer contends that the Bill as it stands at present should satisfy most of the Europeans' special concerns. "Even if they are not happy with it now, I think they'll learn to be happy with it in due course," he said.

For the moment, however, both the Americans and the Europeans have a vested interest in agreement at Williamsburg. President Reagan, who is chairing the conference, clearly wants the meeting to be a success, unmarred by inter-alliance bickering. The Europeans do not wish to do anything that could provoke a sharp American response.

Both sides also broadly share the view contained in a new report by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment that any action which threatens alliance unity simply plays into Soviet hands.

Nicholas Ashford

Barbara Castle

First slip, now for the run-out

So the chips are down and the Labour Party is in better heart than its opponents would have believed possible even a short while ago. Mrs Thatcher has made her first mistake and Labour is the beneficiary.

The Iron Lady goes into the election with the iron a little bent. I have not the slightest doubt that she did not want to go to the country on June 9 - but if she was pushed, it was her own fault. She had allowed herself to be edged nearer and nearer the precipice for some weeks, when a sharp word to the June speculators would have stopped them in their tracks.

Her claim that a June election is in the "national interest" to stop the election speculation, when she herself has fanned it, just won't wash. She has left herself as exposed to the accusation of naked opportunism as the next politician, and she can't be enjoying that.

So she starts her campaign wrong-footed. She is shown enough to know that her code-name of "Resolute" has had to be qualified. In the event, she has been resolute for only four years, when she could have had five. Her confidence that the mini-recovery is for keeps has been thrown into doubt by her own act.

What led her to go for June in the end when she was clearly hesitant remains a mystery. But there is no doubt about the psychological consequences. Ironically, the Labour Party, which certainly wanted more time to get its fighting formations into shape, now feels that she has done it a good turn. In the first place, she has closed the Labour Party ranks. More important, she has given its morale a boost through the revelation that her touch is not as sure as it had begun to seem.

Since her great strength lies in the fact that she seems immune from the accidents that trip up ordinary mortals, her first slip is an important break through which will progressively destroy the myth. And once the armour of the infallibility is cracked, all sorts of things can happen unexpectedly to widen that crack when the election heat is on.

Everyone knows that governments survive more out of good luck than out of good management. But good luck seems to stay with those who behave consistently. Mrs Thatcher's mistake is that she has been induced by loss of nerve out of the public's idea of her character. At this moment, I am irresistibly reminded of Edward Heath's fatal election bid in 1974. Could it be that by one of the strangest quirks of political history she has repeated the misjudgment of the man she so much despised?

James Reston

A security lesson for Reagan

Washington President Reagan has been talking recently as if he were back on the old General Electric radio show peddling washing machines.

When his National Commission on Excellence in Education warned the other day of "a rising tide of mediocrity" in the schools and colleges, which "threatens our very future as a nation and a people", he refrained from questioning this gloomy conclusion but blamed it on the intervention of the federal government in education.

When the commission called for tougher requirements in basic high school subjects, for higher college admission standards, for longer school days, for more homework, for higher teacher salaries and for an extended school year, Ronald Reagan's response was that the parents and communities should be responsible for such reforms without expecting more financial aid from Washington.

Never mind what the divorce rate and working mothers have done to complicate the teaching of children at home. Mr Reagan's simplistic answer to this complex and alarming national situation was that the government was not the answer but was itself a large part of the problem.

When he was delivering his little private enterprise sermons for GE before he went into politics, it didn't matter very much. But when the head of the government uses the prestige of his office to portray the government as the enemy of the people, it matters a great deal.

Nobody is arguing that the federal government should or could replace the family and the community as the main guiding force in public education; merely that it should recognize the present national danger and use its powers to help resolve it.

This is what President Lincoln did during another educational crisis. Even in the middle of the Civil War, concerned about the need to educate the rising generation in the mechanical and agricultural arts, Lincoln signed the Morrill Bill, which made large grants of federal land available to the states for the creation of land grant colleges.

It was this federal "intervention" that supplied the seed money and foundation for the state colleges and universities of today, which in turn brought higher education for the masses and an agricultural revolution that is still the marvel of the world.

Mr Reagan, who attended Enreka College amid the cornfields of Illinois, is surely aware of this. But when he runs into a problem, especially when he's out on the hustings, his instinctive reaction is to blame it on the federal govern-

ment. Obviously, there are important differences between 1963 and 1974, but there are also parallels. Edward Heath, in his bid for a second term of office, by taking on the miners in a "Who governs Britain?" election theme, did not seem as secure as Mrs Thatcher does now, but he had a lot going for him - a lead in the opinion polls, the unpopularity of the trade unions. Yet he came unstuck.

There were two reasons for this. The first was that the ostensible reason for the election was soon proved to be phoney. His fate was sealed when the Prices and Incomes Board suddenly produced a report which showed that the miners, far from holding society to ransom by excessive pay demands, were in fact falling seriously behind other groups. Mrs Thatcher cannot be sure that her unnecessary election will not be similarly exposed.

Secondly, by hesitating about the date, Edward Heath missed the boat. Expected to call an election in January 1974, when the fuel crisis was at its height, he did not pluck up enough courage to do so until February 3. As a result, he ran into a succession of bad economic news: a record trade deficit; the biggest jump in prices since 1947. With every unfortunate announcement, it became clear that his accident-proneness had become terminal.

I believe history will show that Mrs Thatcher has also chosen the wrong date. One thing is certain: economically, things cannot get better for her over the next few weeks - they can only get worse.

In the international field, the summits, Williamsburg and Stuttgart, that lie ahead are not going to be the personal triumph that she hopes for. At home, there is always Michael Heseltine waiting to put his foot in it. And every time she declares that economic recovery is just round the corner, the mocking chorus will come back: "Then why choose June?"

Mrs Thatcher had two choices: either to soldier on with indecision, or to make a dash for it at the best time for her party's interests. If it was opportunism she was after, the best time was undoubtedly immediately after victory in the Falklands war, yet she shrank from that. Her prevarication may prove as fatal as Mr Heath's.

The Labour Party, for its part, will stand and fight single-mindedly. It has no choice. And that concentrates the will wonderfully.

The author is Labour MEP for Greater Manchester, North.

Peter Nichols on the spectacular future planned for an imperial past

Breathing new life into a caesarian dig

Rome Which way would the emperors vote? No party in Italy's latest general election will make an issue about the views of Rome's ancient rulers on present political problems, but the June vote could indirectly help to decide whether an ambitious project for excavating their imperial forums will be rescued from the inter-governmental limbo where it, too, is sleeping.

The project was announced in January. Its genuinely imperial scale was made clear by Rome's communist mayor, Signor Ugo Vetere, who said that by the year 2000 the whole vast area of the forums would be excavated and added to the Roman forum to create an unrivalled archaeological park.

Over the next 20 years, the heart of ancient Rome would be uncovered from Piazza Venezia to the Colosseum. Part of the plan included demolition of the highway which Mussolini cut across the forums, the Via Dei Fori Imperiali. Doubts were quickly brushed aside that the communists were seeking to stir the glories of the past to make men forget the problems of the present, or that the scheme was some sort of anti-fascist vendetta.

It was all, the mayor explained, part of a new concept of city life in which the freshly revealed imperial splendours would make its contribution to a modern capital about to be transformed in a variety of other ways.

Not everyone was convinced. The scope of the project was in itself a lot to digest. It also raised practical difficulties, such as how to cope with the traffic once the Via Dei Fori Imperiali, one of Rome's busiest thoroughfares, was removed. Some critics consider the cost was unwarranted at a time when monuments throughout the country are crumbling, museum cellars are full of exhibits with nowhere to show them and the staff of leading galleries are complaining that their



Ancient Rome, and the Mussolini highway that will disappear if the new excavations are authorized

budget does not keep them in paper clips. As the imperial remains under the forums were perfectly safe where they were, why not let them stay while what was already on the surface could be properly cared for?

The great advocate of the project was, and remains, Professor Adriano La Regina, the superintendent for Rome's monuments. His vision is both that of an archaeologist and of a social planner. He does not see why an abundance of archaeological remains should preclude uncovering others, especially as the plan would give Rome unrivalled archaeological preeminence as well as the chance to display the splendours of the past in a modern urban development.

He convinced Signor Vincenzo Scotti, Minister for the Cultural Heritage in the last government but one. The buried markets, libraries and temples built by the emperors passed to the keeping of a new and untired minister, Signor Nicola Vernola. By then, however, the world's press had taken the story in hand. The first international meet-

ing to study the project is due to open here later this month.

Signor Vernola did not share the enthusiasm of his predecessor. On March 29 he announced that the project was at the moment no more than wishful thinking. Existing legislation did not provide financial cover for anything more than some modest test digs and a great deal more deliberation would be required before there could be talk of tearing up the road.

Opponents of the scheme were jubilant. The best its shattered supporters could manage was to argue that nothing had really changed and that the money had never been expected to come from existing budgets. In a sense they were correct. The minister was on solid legal ground when he said that the legislators had not envisaged this project when they had approved current expenditure of 180,000 million lire (£80m) for the defence of Rome's monuments. In fact, the law permitting this expenditure does not talk of the forums project as such: it

refers only to comparatively minor preliminary studies. Signor Vernola rejected accusations that his decision was taken on political grounds in order to avoid allowing so attractive a project to be launched by a left-wing administration.

Those who argued that nothing had changed overlooked, perhaps purposely, the vital point. There is considerable difference between a project on this scale which has the backing of the incumbent minister and the same project which does not. Moreover, when Signor Vernola was asked how he thought Rome should develop, he replied that that was a question for the people of Rome.

Now the government has fallen. Opponents of the forums project will no doubt hope that Signor Vernola will be reconfirmed as Minister for the Cultural Heritage after the election. His supporters will no doubt hope that he does so well personally in Bari, where he was formerly mayor, that he will be able to insist on a more important post.

All fees can be paid by credit card, but apart from that touch of Americanism, the ambience is grimly utilitarian.

The 16 shooting bays are separated from the reception room by a sound proof glass partition, but the long tables where members eat their packed lunches, clean their weapons and that are bare and very functional. The plastic upholstery on chairs is tattered.

There is a saying that violence is as American as apple pie. Gun-control advocates argue that fewer guns should mean fewer killings, but statistics are inconclusive. Strong penalties for illegal handguns seem to be a deterrent in Massachusetts, for example, where gun murders fell by 55 per cent after one-year prison terms became mandatory for carrying an unlicensed gun.

There were nearly 11,000 handgun deaths in the US in 1980, the latest figure available, and that is more than half of all homicides.

There is another saying, that violence breeds violence, and police records across the country indicate that citizens are beginning to kill burglars. In one recent year, New Yorkers fatally shot 15 intruders. In Dallas, the number was 19 and in Houston, residents shot and killed 25 intruders. One report says that in Miami, crime victims shot and killed twice as many suspects as police did.

Mr Preiser heads a committee which awards a \$500 prize to anyone who defends himself against an intruder, and the most recent recipients have been housewives, one of them a septuagenarian. "Once you encourage retaliation by victims, crime decreases," Mr Preiser said.

Violent crime at present is on the increase in America. Whether it will continue to rise now that many Americans now believe it is OK to shoot the bad guys remains to be seen.

Adrianne Blue

Downtown, where the caring nurse may be first to draw



Shot full of holes: a real life practice target is a New York gun club

Nearly 10,000 people applied for handgun licences in New York City last year - more than twice the number who applied before a tougher handgun law went into effect in August, 1980.

Only those who have applied to carry guns, as opposed to keeping them at home, or in the office or using them at a gun range, will be screened carefully.

In New York, as in many other US cities, it is easy to get a pistol licence. Edward Koch, New York's Mayor, said: "Any person who wants a handgun who doesn't have a criminal record or a mental illness history can get a gun to keep in their home or business without establishing need." By law, any New York resident over the age of 18 can obtain such a licence simply by applying for it.

Only 30 per cent of applications to carry handguns are approved, however. Documentation is required showing "a special need" such as evidence that the applicant has to carry large amounts of cash, usually for business.

Gun control is an emotional issue in the US, where violent crime, particularly in the cities, is encouraging people who would once have been appalled at the thought of owning a gun to join gun clubs and hone their shooting skills.

Gerald Preiser, president of the Federation of New York State Rifle and Pistol Clubs and owner of the West Side Range says that the club's membership has changed character in recent years.

"We're getting doctors lawyers, dentists and nurses," he said. "In the last three years there has been an 18 per cent increase in the number of women. It used to be closed to women - very father and son, very blue-collar, very macho - but that has changed." His club has about 1,000 members, a 20 per cent increase since 1980.

Mr Preiser's club, with its 16 shooting bays, provides instruction on how to shoot and how to obtain a licence. The club, which is in the basement of an office block, offers an "executive club" membership which costs \$125.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

ENEMIES OF LIBERTY

In his Hamlyn lecture on Friday, Lord Hailsham endorsed a statement by ex-President Jimmy Carter that "the single purpose pressure group" has become the greatest enemy of individual liberty, and made two cogent points. He did not suggest that such groups - be they CND, anti-violence, women's or animal liberation fronts, or any other - should be made illegal. The point he was making was a moral one, based on the moral responsibility of every group and individual in a democracy not to pursue even lawful objectives too far. Nor did he suggest that one should differentiate between pressure groups with desirable and undesirable objectives.

Within the ambit of lawful protest any pressure group - even the National Front, for example - has as much right to be accommodated as CND, or the People's March for Jobs, or for that matter, Political pressure groups in their rhetoric show different degrees of respect towards the principle of legal protest in a parliamentary democracy. But any group's lack of respect for parliamentary discipline and freedom is not sufficient grounds for depriving that group of the opportunity to exploit existing freedoms, while they last. It just imposes on a liberal society the obligation to see that it defends its rights fiercely when they are threatened, and to overcome the distasteful paradox that the defence of liberalism often involves some reduction in freedoms.

The clash of argument between the major parties in a general election may seem on the surface to have reduced this point to a minor aspect of our procedures. That is not the case. We have only to listen to Mr Arthur Scargill to realize that the philosophy of pursuing sectional

interest without restraint is a sadly dominant characteristic of political debate.

Mr Scargill, speaking both as a leader of the miners' union and as a major financial contributor to the Labour Party's election campaign, has announced that he would like a Conservative victory in the polls to the triumph of the Nazis in Germany - to be resisted thereafter by any means available. So much for Mr Scargill's belief in a responsible democracy.

Moreover the planners of CND are concocting a whole range of obstructive, possibly illegal, and certainly discriminatory tactics with which to pursue their campaign. For instance, they seek to encourage secondary action against the firm Tarmac which is carrying out contract work at Greenham Common. There is nothing more arrogant than the pressure group which believes that it is entitled to use any means to achieve its end. That has been the language and practice of zealotry throughout the ages. It is zealotry and intolerance of that kind which ought to have been rendered unnecessary by the tradition of a parliamentary democracy.

The posturing of these pressure groups reveals one or all of three possibilities. First it is possible that society's sense of responsibility in which citizens work together at the self-discipline of parliamentary democracy has become eroded through self-indulgence and a general lack of awareness that liberties cannot ever be taken for granted. That is, in any case, most likely in a society lulled by 38 years of peace, and the softening influence of a short political memory.

Secondly there is the possibility that pressure groups, while founded on a perfectly legitimate quest to achieve a particular social or political objective, tend

to lose a sense of proportion and become blinded by the objectives. That can lead to the third possibility which is that they are then taken over by people who care less about the objective than about the fact that a liberal democracy can, if it is careless, be destroyed from within.

That destruction can be achieved by the pursuit of single issue objectives with methods which obstruct or disregard the natural workings of a political system that is quicker to act for the general good than to respond to particular grievances.

All governments, and not just Socialist ones, have to weigh priorities. As Lord Hailsham said: "All responsible governments, Socialist or otherwise, are compelled to formulate policies at any one time by making hard choices between different courses of otherwise desirable action, rendered incompatible with one another by limitation of available means or available time."

In that context it does not matter what a pressure group is pressing for. Apart from questioning the inherent desirability of any pressure group's objective, its members should ask themselves two further questions. First do they propose to remain within the law, and within the spirit of the conventions which have framed our democracy over the years, and which most citizens still find acceptable? We know Mr Scargill's answer to that.

Secondly, can they justify their own particular objective in comparison with other legitimate needs and aims of other members of society who may not have joined their particular lobby? The value and strength of our system of government stand well in comparison to almost all others in the world. It will endure only so long as it is founded on self-discipline and mutual tolerance.

FRIENDS BEYOND THE NEED

The Israeli-Lebanese agreement is to be welcomed for two reasons. First, it shows again, as did Camp David, what can be achieved when the United States manages to persuade an Arab state to sit down with Israel and negotiate. Secondly, it has given the fragile Lebanese government the confidence to go out and argue its case with other Arab governments. It deserves all the support it needs. After all, nobody can wish for a return to the bloodshed of either the Lebanese civil war, or of last year's Israeli invasion.

Whatever the political movement achieved by that invasion, however, does not entitle the Begin government or its apologists in the West to re-write the record by claiming that Israeli actions in Beirut were "justified and distorted by the Western media". That just will not wash.

Nobody thanks the messenger who brings bad news. There could have been no good news last year in the daily spectacle of Israeli planes and guns seeking out terrorist targets and, in the process, killing thousands of women and children. War is an unpleasant business, initially rendered tolerable nowadays by the plasticity with which violence is habitually coated on television screens.

In Beirut last summer there was obviously some stage management of television films and some newspaper reporting. That is an inevitable casualty of war in any circumstances, and the anarchic and chaotic conditions of Beirut would only have accentuated it. But to suggest that it was Israel which was a greater victim than the thousands of innocents who died is to reveal, on the part of the spokesmen in Jerusalem and their apologists in the West, a reluctance to take criticism and an inability to be fully aware of the consequences of one's actions - let alone to accept responsibility for them - which is truly alarming.

At a recent gathering in London organised by the Insti-

tute of Jewish Affairs it was clear that many in the audience seemed to be unaware that the Hebrew press in Israel had been much more critical of Israeli military operations than had the British press. Not only unaware, but unwilling to be aware. Yet the crowd was very ready with its criticism of Western correspondents - particularly our own Middle East correspondent - while showing a woeful capacity for invention and exaggeration. Those were the very faults which the critics were trying to lay at the feet of correspondents who it was implied were intimidated, greedy for fame, sensationalist, potentially anti-semitic, and lazy.

How many times had any of these omniscient armchair critics risked his life to cross town with his despatch for the day? For that has been the daily reality in Beirut for many years now; but perhaps, unlike the correspondents whom they criticize, the members of the IJA symposium had not themselves been to Beirut to find that out.

In Beirut there is a permanent atmosphere of fear. There are no press offices or communiques. There is none of the apparatus of easy journalism. There is indeed intimidation. One journalist is known to have been shot by Palestinian terrorists. Another, last year - a French television cameraman seeking to provide actual film of the effects of an Israeli bombing - was decapitated by bombers on their second run. No terrorist he; but no doubt his critics would accuse him of bias in seeking to film what he did. A tragic bias in his case, in favour of getting too close to the truth.

The brutality of the Beirut war and the subsequently prolonged involvement in Lebanon are obviously shocks for Israeli society and for all those Jews who have a deep, abiding and necessary emotional involvement with the fate of the Jewish state. Most previous wars have been short and sharp. They have usually been fought out in the

antiseptic arena of the desert, or in sparsely populated territory in the Jordan valley. Now these supporters have had to come to terms with a scale of civilian casualties vastly exceeding the numbers of Israeli military casualties.

The Begin government's policies have tested to its limits the principle of "our country right or wrong" which has bound most Jewish opinion behind Israel in previous emergencies. The country has always lived in the glare of publicity and always will. That may inhibit an Israeli government in its actions to a much greater degree than it would Israel's neighbours. To judge by its reaction to Western criticism Jerusalem frets at such inhibitions. At other times, however, certainly in terms of the moral and material support it receives, Israel profits from living so much in the public eye of Western society. There are penalties as well as prizes in celebrity status.

Israeli society is healthily aware of its differences. The country is loud with argument, as it was last year, for the first time during an actual war. Mr Begin thrives on controversy, but his supporters overseas seem less sure of themselves. They are more sensitive to what they see as a collective slur each time the actions of the Begin government are criticised.

That is only to be expected among expatriates of all kinds, who have an understandable over-sensitivity when a minority falls under the shadow of critical majority opinion. But such a minority should not seek to deflect the criticism by finding wholly implausible causes for it which do justice to neither party. In London the British apologists for Palestinian behaviour often suffer the same inability to absorb criticism as those for whom they carry the flag. Not surprisingly with friends like these, both sides of this argument attract more enemies than they deserve, and certainly more than they need.

concluded in the freely negotiated tripartite talks conducted by the Israeli and Lebanese delegations with American participation and all but signed some three weeks before Mr Shultz embarked on his mission.

This had been achieved despite frequently expressed impatience and scepticism largely as a result of undramatic, patient Israeli-Lebanese negotiation *deus ex machina* of "American pressure".

That is the real lesson King Hussein, the PLO and the Syrian leaders should seriously consider.

For once, the European Community leaders, and especially the Foreign Secretary could do something positive in the Middle East by impressing the significance of this lesson on their friends in the region; and who better to carry the message than a return trip by the Minister of

State, to Amman, Damascus and to the PLO in Tunis.

Sir, Your faithful,
JON KIMCHE,
Camilla Lacey Lodge,
Westbury, Dorset, Surrey.

Inanimate illiteracy

From Mr J. Dyson Taylor

Sir, It is possible that inanimate objects can also be affected by "morphic resonance"? ("Spectrum" May 6). If so, could it be that the ever-fading near-illiteracy, reported in teenagers leaving school, is the cause of the printing machines producing newspapers making ever more spelling mistakes? Yours faithfully,
J. DYSON TAYLOR,
Hausstaufel 7/B,
Kitzbühel,
Austria.

Nuclear arms in Nato context

From Mr A. L. King-Harman

Sir, With the election imminent the arguments put forward by Mr Anthony Verrier (May 10) need rebuttal. It simply is not true that phasing out British nuclear weapons would leave our relations with Nato unimpaired. Official Nato support for the nuclear forces of Britain and France is contained in the Ottawa Declaration of 1974 and has remained constant ever since.

In national terms neither country has ever been prepared to leave the deterrent capability of the West, and thus its security, totally in the hands of the United States, nor for that matter the strategic and political decisions associated with nuclear weapons. European backing for the British and French nuclear forces is based largely on the same considerations.

Political considerations apart, it makes little military sense to phase out the current arms control negotiations, show: they certainly add substantially to the deterrent capabilities of the West in political terms and must be additional restraining factors should the USSR ever contemplate resorting to force to resolve its differences with the West. As to the UK force itself, it and its command and control system are virtually invulnerable to a Soviet first strike and are designed specifically for a retaliatory strike. Phasing out would be unlikely to result in larger conventional forces, where the need is manpower as much as equipment: the UK nuclear force has only taken from two per cent to seven per cent of the defence budget over the years and it would seem unlikely that the sums saved would be used for equipment, which already takes 46 per cent of the defence budget, a much higher percentage than in almost every other Nato country.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
A. L. KING-HARMAN,
Ouse Manor,
Sharnbrook,
Nr Bedford.
May 11.

Tenants' claims

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, Under the headline "Housing courts urged by surveyors to speed tenants' claims" your property correspondent (May 2) reported that ministerial consideration was being given to a scheme submitted by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors for the setting up of special courts "in parallel with the existing county courts" to speed tenants' claims in all housing matters. Apart from the expense, the statutory implementation of any such scheme is no simple affair: that is if these courts are to have exclusive jurisdiction in all housing matters.

Questions arise as to whether the proposed power of enforcement at the hands of part time members of the tribunal should extend to commitment: as to rules of procedure: as to appellate procedures: and as to the availability of legal aid. As it is wholly practicable to extend the law for a specific purpose, problems should the need arise, it is not understood why the county court should not retain its jurisdiction in accordance with current procedures.

A case in point arose during the committee stage of the Housing and Building Control Bill (now not to proceed) in connection with the resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants in connection with transfers of accommodation when marital or extra marital relations of those in possession ended, and also in connection with repairs and improvements. It became apparent that consideration would be given to issuing regulations to deal with such problems. Surely the county court is the appropriate forum for the resolution of this type of dispute? I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY,
Temple, EC4.

Hedge against loss

From Mr D. H. Harris

Sir, The traditional craft of hedgelaying is alive and well on the Oxford Canal at Claydon and Cropredy, where the fruits of winter maintenance work by the British Waterways Board enrich the eye and surrounding landscape.

It would be an even better countryside if local authorities and much of the farming community laid their ripers to rest and laid their hedges in the traditional way of their forefathers and lengthmen of the Oxford Canal.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRIS,
Narrow Boat Gongoozler,
The Marina,
Fenny Compton,
Warwickshire.

Paying for injuries caused in the air

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, Your third leader (May 11) summarised admirably the present unsatisfactory state of the law relating to compensation for personal injury or death caused during international carriage by air.

Of course the present limit of £11,799 is too low. Of course no victim of accident should have to discharge a burden of proof of such astonishing strictness as the Court of Appeal, in *Goldman v Thai Airways International Ltd*, has decided he must if he is to be adequately compensated beyond that limit. Of course, in the absence of new and complete international agreement special contracts for a higher limit will help. But the wider issue seems never fully to be discussed.

Would it not be wiser, given the existence of limits of which by now most passengers are or ought to be aware, for them to be encouraged to take out adequate accident insurance to meet the risks for themselves or their families of disability or death? Such cover is cheap and readily available. This heretical view, which raises complex issues of social policy, may be unpopular but it is a practical basis - at least on an interim basis.

IATA might just consider encouraging airlines to add automatic accident insurance as part of the ticket package. At the same time, it is difficult for existing limits to be increased without international

agreement and, in particular, the agreement of the United States, which is at present sadly not available.

Although there are some who say that the decision in *Goldman v Thai Airways International Ltd* was that of a hard case making bad law, the other view is that it is highly desirable that the courts should give rigid, strict interpretations to the wording of the Warsaw Convention because, as a result, change is much more likely than if the issues are fudged by judges, as they frequently are in the United States in these cases, demonstrating their disapproval of the system by findings not justified by the language.

As for your Thatchery exhortation to buy British, it is fair to the airlines of many other states to say that the British adoption of special contracts is not unique. The difficulty for the passenger is finding out which airlines do and which don't have special contracts.

The abandonment of limits altogether would probably be the ideal special contract.

Underlying all this is the unreasoning fear of airlines that they will have to meet very much higher insurance costs than they do at present if they abandon limits or limits are abandoned for them.

Yours truly,
PETER MARTIN,
The Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
May 13.

BBC standards and popular demand

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, The debate aroused by Howard Davies's question, "Do we really need the BBC?" (feature, April 26) should not be allowed to develop solely into a "public enterprise" versus "market forces" argument. The case for the BBC is in my view a separate issue from the "privatisation" debate. Furthermore, it would be damaging if the bipartisan support for the BBC given by all governments since 1927 (in spite of occasional confrontations over issues such as the General Strike and Suez) should be undermined by the right to challenge Mr Davies's right to query the BBC's programme budget. Financial scrutiny over any aspect of public spending, whether it be education, the social services, defence or the arts, is a highly proper defence for the public and politicians alike and there is no reason why media activities should be exempt. It must, however, be applied with some knowledge of the special nature of what is involved.

The BBC is fully aware of its responsibilities to secure mass audiences to justify the licence fee. This is not, however, to accept the argument that the costs of different types of programme should be directly related to audience appeal. The overwhelming achievement of the BBC, and subsequently the IBA, has been to respond to market forces in the wider context of cultural balance and development. It has aimed to improve standards and the level of public appreciation - a difficult task to reconcile with broadly giving people what they want.

It has taken nearly 50 years to do this, but it is a fragile achievement and could be easily swept away by a total surrender to "popular" taste. Priggish as it may sound, cultural enhancement is a worthy objective for a nation to pursue and the BBC's success is the subject of world-wide recognition and admiration.

It is significant that one of the strongest letters supporting the BBC has come from Michigan (May 5). I have taken part in broadcasting

seminars in Europe and America and have been so embarrassed by the praise heaped on the BBC that (as becomes an academic) I have had to cast around for points to criticize. Even the French admit that our broadcasting system is better than theirs.

Apart from the measurable benefits such as exports, the BBC remains an important flagship of British prestige and influence in the world. My own experience, which includes wartime service with propaganda broadcasting as well as peacetime involvement with the BBC, convinces me that we have an unrivalled capacity in this field.

As a projection of our national identity and purpose, the BBC operates to our considerable advantage in the world today. We have been quick to respond to the need for national self-expression in times of crisis. Why then should we attempt to undermine an organization devoted to such purposes in these times? Furthermore, the international reputation of the BBC is, in my view, inseparable from its domestic standards and purposes.

Some of these aspects are, as Mr Davies points out, difficult to measure. It is one thing, however, to point out that we must learn to measure the costs and benefits of public enterprise much more precisely: it is quite another to say that what cannot be measured is unimportant. This is one of the few points on which Adam Smith and Karl Marx would agree.

To sum up: what I am not arguing is that market forces are irrelevant or that cable television should be stopped or that broadcasting should be immune from public accountability. I am arguing that the BBC should stay in the business of mixing its output, with some element of cultural uplift, and that our overall national broadcasting system should be so constructed as to make this possible.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh.

Crisis in prisons

From Dr Stephen Shaw

Sir, It is easy to sympathise with the Home Secretary in his article entitled "Prisons: no easy way out" (May 5). Defeated by the judiciary, buffeted by many in his own party, and conspicuously lacking the support of the Prime Minister, Mr Whitelaw may well feel that he has made the best of an impossible task.

It would be churlish to deny that there has been a substantial shift from the practice of excessive secrecy which had hitherto characterised the prison department in its dealings with the media: but openness has been used highly selectively.

Where greater public awareness of the squalid state of our local prisons can be used to support the demand for more resources it has been exploited to the full. But in areas where the Home Office is less obviously the "victim" - for example, the continuing controversy over the standards of health care provided by the prison medical service - openness has been notably absent.

The "law and order" services have been well protected from the general restrictions on Government spending. Police pay and recruitment have rocketed and in the prisons we have embarked upon the largest building programme this century. But this achievement is double-edged.

The prisons we are building are too large, too expensive, sited in the wrong areas and, according to the recent report of the independent prison inspectorate, will make little or no impression upon overcrowding. There is mounting evidence to suggest that building more prisons and reducing the prison population are mutually exclusive objectives.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
Nuffield Lodge,
Regent's Park, NW1.

It is difficult to believe that morale has really improved over the last four years. The decision not to proceed with a supervised release scheme cast a shadow over the whole system; the unspoken hostility between governor grades and the career civil servants continues, and the prison officers, who meet in conference this month, are threatening a return to the industrial action of three years ago.

The prison population reached an all-time record in 1981, seems certain to exceed it this summer, and Mr Whitelaw now appears to accept that the numbers may reach 50,000 by the end of the decade. For the Home Secretary to suggest that the only alternative to this scenario is the use of his powers to order executive release is most misleading. The All-Party Penal Affairs Group recently put to him a package of proposals which would afford the system some immediate relief. Moreover, it is ironic that in the same issue in which Mr Whitelaw trumpeted his success in funding the prison building programme, your Home Affairs Correspondent reported that community service for 16-year-olds would have to be rationed because of a shortage of resources.

Regrettably, Mr Whitelaw had tended to regard the reduction of the prison population in terms of crisis management. There have been few signs of the co-ordinated approach which is needed in the long-term.

There may be no easy way out from the crisis in the prisons but it is the Home Secretary himself who has closed off some of the most promising escape routes.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
Nuffield Lodge,
Regent's Park, NW1.

Taking care of Parish records

From Mr W. D. Pattinson

Sir, Two implications of Mr Duncan Harrington's challenging article of May 7, "Ensuring the future of parish records", require some riposte if the motives of parish clergy and Parochial Church Councils are not to be unfairly misconstrued in certain respects.

First, in those cases where parishes have not deposited their older records in diocesan record offices, this is because they have satisfied the diocesan authorities that they are in a position to comply with the statutory provisions as to care laid down in the Parochial Register and Records Measure 1978. It is not, as Mr Harrington seems to imply, because they are not "looked upon as part of our national heritage".

Secondly, although there cannot any longer be many parishes which receive "a not insignificant income from searches in their earlier records", those which do have such an income must be regarded as amply justified in recouping through search fees at least part of the cost of maintaining and supervising those records and thereby protecting them against deterioration, theft and careless use.

Having made these points, however, I support and welcome the main drift of Mr Harrington's article, namely, that the principal aim of the measure is to exert strong pressure on any parishes which have not deposited their records, and that in this it has largely, if not yet, entirely succeeded.

Yours sincerely,
W. D. PATTINSON,
General Secretary,
The General Synod of The Church of England,
Church House,
Dean's Yard, SW1.
May 10.

Order of precedence

From Mrs K. N. M. Kross

Sir, I'm sure there are many of us who will miss the voice of George Thomas calling "Order, order" with all the gentleness, but firm discipline, of a father over unruly children.

Would it be within the realms of possibility that the BBC could keep his familiar voice as the introduction to *Today in Parliament*? Yours faithfully,
K. N. M. KROSS,
27 Braemar Avenue,
Old Moulsham,
Chelmsford,
Essex.
May 12.

Holding the line

From Mr Robert Gower

Sir, Holidaying in Cumbria earlier this month, my wife and I decided to take a return rail trip on the Settle and Carlisle line. Although it was an elating experience, we were both saddened by what we encountered.

On this route, recently described by British Rail itself as "the most spectacular main line in England", there are now two local trains daily in each direction. Freight traffic is being diverted to other lines. Consequently, the Settle and Carlisle is doomed to closure, the low receipts being conveniently overshadowed by the high maintenance cost of a line which represents the apex of Victorian railway engineering.

I am aware that a preservation organisation has been formed, but its task is laudable, but forbidding. Cannot the line be given over to the care of the National Trust now, whilst it is still in working order?

Future generations should not only have the opportunity of enjoying train travel on a route with unrivalled views of the Pennines, but should be given the chance to appreciate at first hand the incredible achievement of its construction.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT GOWER, Precentor,
Radley College,
Oxfordshire.
April 29.

Financial constraint

From Mr S. D. Patel

Sir, Ref Miss Ruth Ellacott (aged 8) and her difficulty getting her new £1 coins in the money box, I would like to make an observation that as a sub-postmaster of a village post office I received an initial supply of £500 in £1 coins. The demand for the same was so heavy that I ran out of stock in a couple of days.

Further, a very interesting aspect of this is that, since the launch of the new £1 coins almost a month ago, not a single £1 coin has returned to me over the counter as tender for payment.

Is this also the view of other financial institutions or am I thus to conclude that these coins, despite their shortcomings, have proved to be so popular and so quickly? I wonder!

Yours sincerely,
S. D. PATEL,
St. Mary Cray TSO,
7 Mountfield Way,
Orpington,
Kent.
May 12.

From Colonel (ret'd) F. M. S. Winter

Sir, I went into a London clearing bank in Kensington on Thursday, May 5, and asked for 10 £1 coins and 10 £1 notes. There weren't any £1 coins.

I went into the same bank on Tuesday, May 10, and asked for 10 £1 coins and 10 £1 notes. There weren't any £1 notes.

Sincerely,
FREDERICK WINTER,
Venezers Barn,
Puttenham,
Guildford,
Surrey.
May 11.

Middle East lessons

From Mr Jon Kimche

Sir, Your thoughtful editorial comment (May 9) on the Shultz shuttle and your Defence Correspondent's intriguingly informative account of the "Middle East Jigsaw" in the same issue, must have been welcome to all concerned for the future well-being of the region. (It is too much at this stage to aspire to peace and goodwill.)

However, there was a potentially dangerous inbuilt assumption in both articles which could lead to erroneous conclusions in Damascus, Amman and by the PLO leadership. Mr Shultz went out of his way in his parting statement to emphasise the limited character of his intervention, "the icing on the cake" he termed it. For 95 per cent of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement had been

A SPECIAL REPORT

Factory Automation

In less than 10 years, the dream of an unmanned automatic factory freeing workers from the drudgery created by the industrial revolution has become a practical proposition.

Largely as the result of the microprocessor revolution, which has provided the new breed of technocrats with compact, versatile and, above all, cheap and powerful computer power, it is now possible to eliminate human hands from a wide variety of manufacturing and assembly operations in industry.

While the silicon chip may have had enormous impact upon communications and in commercial sectors like banking and insurance, arguably its most far reaching implication is in the factory. Little, if any, serious consideration has yet been given to the social upheaval that the first unmanned factory could create.

There is now a growing and authoritative bank of evidence that the new technologies can provide a company with the means to make a massive cut in production costs and at the same time give a binding promise of superior and never-faltering quality. Even without total automation, manufacturers are realising that big cuts in manning and costs can be made by harnessing the power of computers.

The automatic factory - and it could become a widespread reality within five years - would be based on a computer-controlled system feeding customers' orders directly to the start of the manufacturing process. Raw materials and parts would be ordered automatically from the stores and delivered by driverless trucks to be picked up by robots.

The operation would continue with more robots feeding conveyors, transferring parts from one station to the next, servicing computer-controlled machine tools and carrying out inspection and monitoring procedures - all with unwavering precision - and finally packaging the goods and preparing them for despatch.

Most of these elements that will combine to produce the automatic factory already exist. The next, and, for the perpetrator, most lucrative step is the creation of the systems technology to bring them together.

Throughout the industrial world, advanced manufacturing

The unmanned factory could be a reality within five years, but has enough thought been given to the people it will inevitably replace?

Edward Townsend reports

systems are the focus of much governmental attention. Politicians, more than industrialists, have realised during the present deep recession that the nation that enters the next decade with the most efficient and widespread adaptation of the new technologies will be economically the most powerful.

Thanks to companies like General Electric and IBM of the United States and Fujitsu Fanuc of Japan, computer numerically controlled (CNC) machine tools have revolutionised manufacturing in recent years. Relatively inexpensive control systems have been developed for a wide range of machinery ranging from the humble lathe to highly sophisticated machining centres, the latter capable of working automatically on all sides of a complex component by boring, drilling, cutting and shaping.

And while the British machine tool industry once lagged far behind the Japanese, American

Catching up with the competition

and Germans in developing new equipment, the successful remnants are now catching up with the competition and there is probably little significant difference between the machine tools on offer. Only a marked resistance on the part of much of British manufacturing to utilize advanced technology keeps the country behind the times.

Not that this is the fault of the present Government or its agencies: millions of pounds of assistance are available to encourage companies to invest in the factory of the future, yet there has been little enthusiasm

from the rank and file of industry.

Farsighted machine tool companies like The 600 Group have spotted the long term advantages of advanced manufacturing systems and big, highly exposed, giants like Ford and BL have spent huge sums on robotics. Cars like the Ford Sierra and the BL Maestro are welded and painted almost without any human intervention.

But the widespread breakthrough at the small, batch production engineering workshop has yet to occur. Excuses include lack of confidence, poor support from the banks, high interest rates, low return on investment, severely depressed markets. The same could be said of other western countries - and many of them are showing Britain the way.

The Department of Industry has allocations of money to assist in the purchase of robots, the installation of flexible manufacturing systems (FMS) and, as part of the package announced in this year's Budget, advanced machine tools under the renewed £100m Small Engineering Firms Investment Scheme (SEFIS).

But in total, the Government appears to be giving industry more stimulants than it wants, or can cope with. Full order books, it seems, are a more potent force.

As a result, the UK will certainly follow rather than lead the United States and Japan in the use of new manufacturing technology, and probably much of Europe as well. Last year, American industry invested an estimated \$26,000m on factory automation systems and services and according to at least one forecast the figure could rise to \$100,000m a year within the next 10 years.

Much is being done in the

Showing what it can do: at the push of a button, a robot puts the last letter of welcome in place at ASEA'S factory at Milton Keynes

UK to stimulate interest and investment in advanced systems by the Government's British Technology Group which is concentrating its support on robotics, FMS and computer-aided manufacture. It believes that FMS, in which the Vickers-owned Kearney and Trecker Marwin (KTM) has been a leading light in the UK, will have a crucial impact on the future of manufacturing.

FMS is the nearest thing yet to the automatic factory. It means the linking of machines into groups, served by robots or computer-controlled equipment, to enable products to be machined or assembled in small batches at a cost equivalent to that associated normally with mass production.

Crucial to the concept of automation in manufacturing is the robot - not simply the

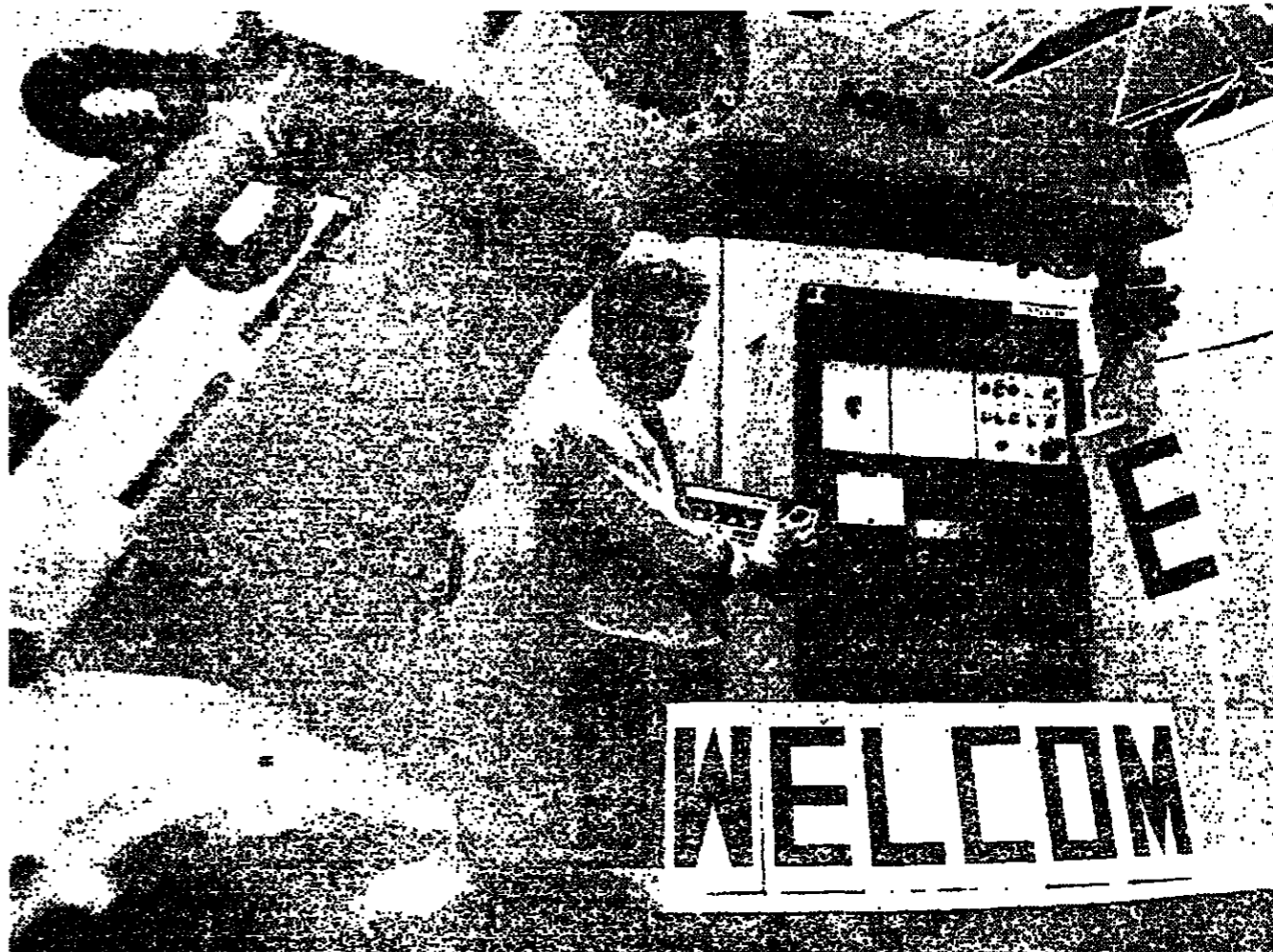
Machines that will make the decisions

moving arm that picks up and places components but the increasingly sophisticated "seeing" and even "smelling" machine that replaces the human worker. And in the forefront of such developments is the BTG-owned British Robotic Systems (BSRL) described as being at the leading edge of technology in the field of control and visual systems for robots.

Robots equipped with vision sensors have immense implications for productivity and quality and, because of their additional intelligence, will be able to make decisions ranging, according to BSRL, from assessing the quality of a surgical blade to the shape of a fancy cake.

But as the march towards greater automation quickens, the almost total lack of consideration being given to the people that will be displaced becomes increasingly evident.

"Automate or liquidate" may be a fine rallying call from the Department of Industry but it does little to assess the social effects. Societies would do well to ponder the recent prediction from America that by the turn of the century factory robots will be doing what seven million human workers do now.



FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING

When even the experts are not sure

As recently as two years ago few people in industry or government had heard of "flexible manufacturing systems". Now the phrase has become something of a buzzword in the field of technology and factory automation.

The Government has adopted a £60m scheme to provide grants to help companies install flexible manufacturing systems. The world's first flexible manufacturing systems conference was held in Brighton last October, and the second, an even bigger event, is scheduled to take place at London's Hilton International Hotel this autumn, with delegates attending from all the leading industrialized countries. The subject even boasts its own magazine and newsletter.

The irony is that defining exactly what is meant by flexible manufacturing systems is something even the experts find difficult. They know what it is when they see it, but putting it into simple words is much harder - and even then not everybody's definitions agree. The Department of Industry acknowledges in its 17-

page guide to companies applying for grants that "a single workable definition of the term is... not possible".

In its specialized sense, the term is generally taken to refer to the application of computerized technology to machine tools employed in a factory production process. The flexibility lies in the ability of the system to control automatically a series of different machines, processes and components, all without human intervention.

It is, says the department in its best attempt at a definition, "a system which combines microelectronics and mechanical engineering to bring economies of scale to batch work". A typical system will have a central on-line computer, controlling the machine tools and other work stations as well as the transfer within the production process of components and tooling. The computer will also monitor and provide information about how the process is working. "This combination of flexibility and overall control", says the department, "makes possible the production of a wide range

of products in small numbers". The kind of processes which are most suited to flexible manufacturing systems are such things as metal forming, metal cutting, component assembly and product finishing. It could involve one process or several, depending on the size of the company.

For example, a typical flexible system might involve the cutting of several different metal castings. An automated vehicle will pick up the castings, transfer them to a special pallet and move it to the work station where the computerized machinery will recognize what part it is, and automatically select the right tools for the cutting.

"Adaptability is the single most important thing about the flexible manufacturing", says Mr John Hampson, who is helping to organize this year's conference on the subject. "If your company has got mass production, then flexible manufacturing systems are not much help to you. But the vast majority of manufacturers do not have such big volumes. They have a great variety of

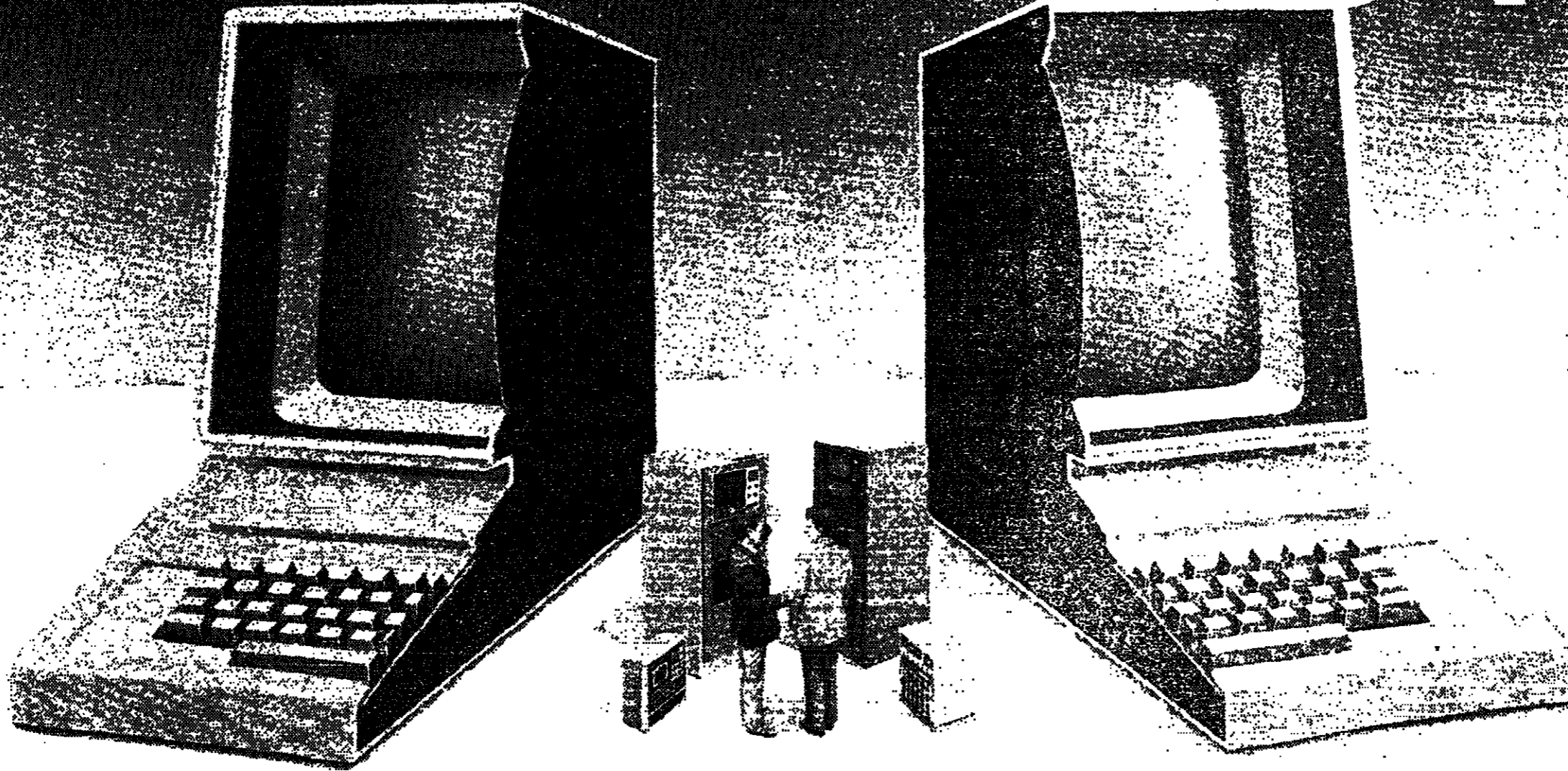
different small products, and flexible manufacturing is designed to help them."

As with other aspects of automation and computerized technology, the Government has decided that British industry needs to keep pace with a development in which - inevitably - the Japanese are widely regarded as holding a lead. So far only a handful of flexible manufacturing systems have been installed in this country. The most publicized application is that of the Normalair-Garrett firm in Crewkerne, Somerset, a defence contractor using a flexible system to help make components for an aircraft bomb release unit. Companies such as Vickers and the 600 Group are interested in manufacturing the systems, but so far the problem is as much one of ignorance among companies as to what is available as of a lack of capital to invest.

The Department of Industry's £60m package was launched last June by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for Information Technology. The re-

continued on page 15

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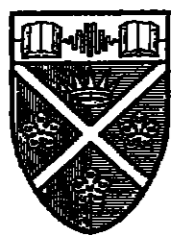
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Heading into the age of 'touch and see' robots

All the publicity surrounding industrial robots should not conceal the fact that in their present primitive state they are still of limited appeal to manufacturers.

Last year's sales of robots in Britain amounted to less than £15m, according to the British Robot Association. The worldwide total was somewhere between £200m and £300m. Such figures show the production of robots to be a minor activity, in financial terms, compared to conventional machine tools and factory equipment.

Nor are the numbers of industrial robots impressive. Their total throughout the world is about 30,000 - one-thousandth the number of unskilled factory workers. The British Robot Association Census put the UK figure at 1,152 by the end of 1982; we are fifth in the international league after Japan (13,000), the United States (6,250), West Germany (3,500) and Sweden (1,300), but just ahead of France (950) and Italy (700).

Although managements have sometimes been inhibited from introducing robots by conservatism, laziness and fear of the workers' reaction, they have not been adopted more widely principally because the "first generation robots" now on sale have limited capabilities. They are "blind, deaf, dumb, daft, one-armed bandits, screwed to the floor", in the words of Peter Davey, coordinator of the Science and Engineering Research Council's robotics programme.

Today's robots can - by definition - be re-programmed to carry out a different series of movements, but they do not have the in-built flexibility of "intelligence" to react to variable conditions by adjusting

their own actions. The next generation, which is under intensive development at dozens of academic and industrial laboratories throughout the world, will have "senses" - normally a video camera to give "sight" or pressure sensors for "touch" - feeding back information about the outside world; the robots' microprocessor brains will adjust their movements accordingly.

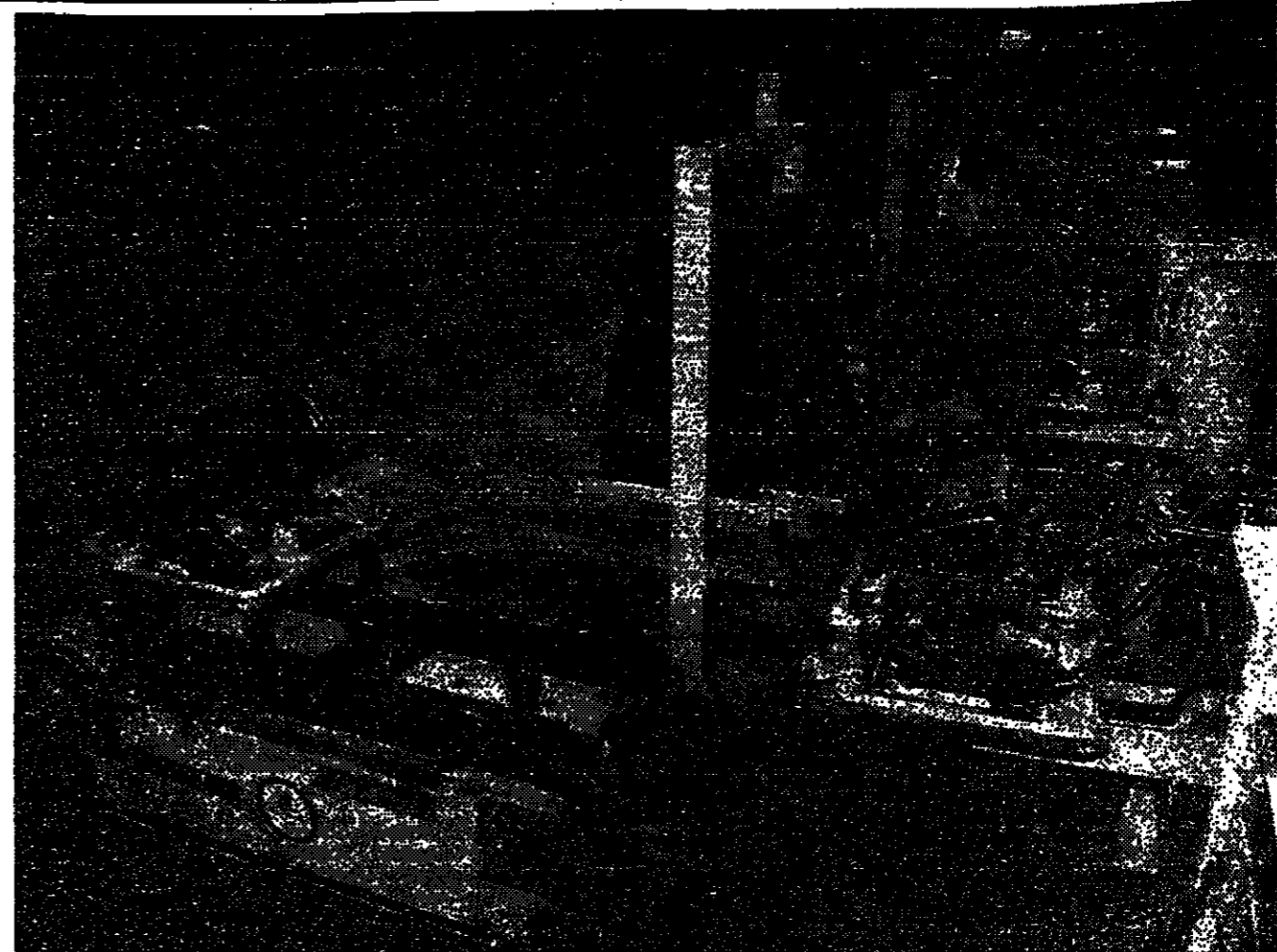
Of course the market for second generation robots that can cope with some disorder will be far greater. In assembly, for example, a vision system will enable them to pick parts out of a jumbled heap in a drum, while today's machines have to be fed components in a fixed position with exactly the right orientation.

Car manufacturers are now the biggest users because their production lines include many of the simple, repetitive and slightly hazardous jobs that suit robots so well, and tooling costs can be spread over several models of car by re-programming the machines.

(In West Germany the Volkswagen company has made 940 robots for its own factories).

Spot welding is the most frequent robot application today, followed by arc welding. Other important uses include paint spraying, injection moulding and placing components into machine tools.

Robots may be pneumatically, hydraulically or electrically powered. Hydraulics give the greatest strength - a long-armed robot can move more than 200lb within a working volume of 1,000 cubic feet. Electric power is more economical and accurate, especially in smaller robots and ones that stop regularly between movements, but it may bring an unacceptable risk of sparks in



A robot trolley takes the strain out of carrying engine parts on the assembly line at Fiat's plant in Turin. Right, how film makers saw the robot in 1956.

some applications.

A conventional industrial robot has an arm with three degrees of freedom, to use the jargon of the industry, and a wrist with one to three degrees of freedom. Each joint contains a sensor to tell the microprocessor - the robot's brain - its position and movement.

The microprocessor compares the inputs from the joints (and perhaps also from other machines on the production line) with what its program says is the next desired position, and activates the appropriate motors. The computer is most simply programmed by actually leading the robot through the sequence you want it to follow.

A standard 8-bit microprocessor can cope comfortably

with the control of a first generation industrial robot. But far faster and more powerful chips will be needed to process all the information from the outside sensors built into the machines of the future.

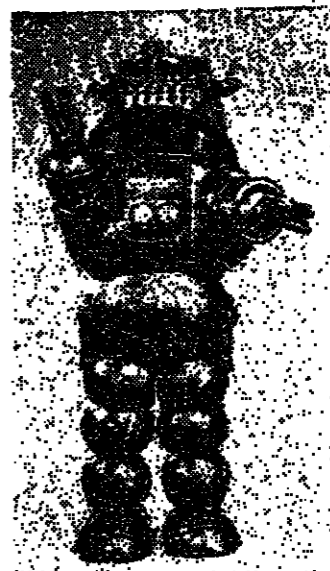
Prototype robot vision systems are emerging from so many laboratories that it is rather invidious to single out any of them. However, British Robotic Systems (a London-based subsidiary of the British Technology Group) claims to be this country's leader in the application of robot vision in working industrial environments. Another small company, Computer Recognition Systems of Wokingham, says it is ahead in the art of image processing.

Touch may be a cheaper

sense to develop. Simple induction coils near the gun of an arc welding robot can detect the proximity of metal and guide the weld. Pressure switches can allow assembly robots to accept differences in the size of components without squeezing the bigger ones out of shape or letting the smaller ones fall through.

However, as the Department of Industry warns in its *Human guide to robots*, "it is easy to get carried away with plans for robots with ever more senses: hearing and speech could be added. The future will belong also to cheaper and simpler machines working on easier tasks."

Clive Cookson
Technology Correspondent



Robots

Britain mounts its counter challenge

Though Japanese manufacturers have no special edge in pure technological development of robots, they have been ahead of the game in working out a multiplicity of applications of current robotic systems. It is one of the reasons for a growing number of links between British companies and those in Japan, either to strengthen a British maker's existing range or to assemble or manufacture completely the Japanese robots under licence in Britain.

It is the biggest challenge facing Britain's indigenous robot makers and how the battle will go is still in the balance. In the earlier part of this year the signs were not too good, with the biggest all-British robot maker, Remek Microelectronics, one of at least two home-grown robot manufacturers, apparently fading into receivership, although with Remek that situation was due to change.

The British Robot Association was also reporting an increasing domination of the British market by foreign suppliers. Last year one in every

four industrial robots installed in Britain came from Japan compared with one in eight during 1981.

British-built robots took only 23 per cent of a market in Britain which had anyway shrunk rather more than 8 per cent compared with 1981. Then 32 robots were installed in Britain but only 339 were last year, although Britain is still fifth in the world robot population league.

British-made robots had accounted for 29 per cent of the 1981 market.

Of Britain's total robot population so far - 1,152 in place at the end of last year - a quarter were built in Britain, with US manufacturers selling in almost as many, the Japanese European manufacturers, including the Swedes and the West Germans, together contributing 37 per cent.

A big importer is ASEA of Sweden, which has a distribution and exhibition centre at Milton Keynes.

The fruits of a number of licensing deals between British and Japanese interests have yet to mature. It means Japanese penetration of the British market - and probably the west European markets with the UK base used as a springboard - will almost certainly grow between now and 1985.

Anglo-Japanese links include those between General Electric Company (GEC) and Hitachi, Lansing and Hitachi, 600 Group and Fanuc, Butters of Coventry with Osaka Transformer Company, and Sykes Group with Daimichi Kiko.

The GEC-Hitachi link is among the more recent deals made between British and Japanese interests. At the turn of the year the two companies signed a licensing agreement for the sale and manufacture of industrial robots in Europe; for the first two years the robots will be Japanese-made although sold under the GEC label but in 1985 GEC plans to be manufacturing in Britain under the licensing arrangement.

GEC is already producing robots of its own, developed and made by its subsidiary, Hall Automation. These include the successful CompArm paint-

spraying robot, which has earned the nickname of the Heineken robot - so small and compact it is said to reach parts other robots cannot reach.

But the Hitachi robot was seen as a crucial and immediate addition to GEC's robot armoury. Electrically driven, it can be fitted with limbs for use in welding, machine servicing and assembly. GEC's main sales target is the European car-manufacturing industry, its efforts now being brought under the umbrella of GEC's Factory Automation Systems Technology (FAST) Division.

The 600 Group has had a longer association with Japanese interests. Its SCAMP (600's computer-aided manufacturing project) flexible manufacturing system, unveiled at Colchester, Essex, at the end of last year, uses robots manufactured by Japan's Fanuc. Now a fresh step has been taken with a £200,000 agreement to set up a new company, 600 Fanuc Robotics, which plans to build a plant in Colchester to make robots for which Fanuc will supply the control units and motors.

Because SCAMP is operating at the leading edge of flexible manufacturing technology, the efforts of the 600 Group could

be crucial in developing the British challenge both in home and overseas markets.

While Department of Industry funding involvement in SCAMP allied to the Japanese connexion has given rise to some criticisms from all-British robot makers, it has largely been regarded in government as a key step in constructing a credible robot manufacturing industry in Britain.

The Japanese apart, there is also a challenge to Britain's indigenous robot makers by the US, from where many of the technological breakthroughs in robotics have come. Some of the foreign robots used by Ford at Dagenham are those developed by US-based Cincinnati Milacron Simulation, part of the Rediffusion group, is to build and market at Crawley, West Sussex, a robot system developed by American Robot of Pittsburgh. Production - to start this year - could reach 150 units annually by 1986.

But the most notable example of the way foreign invasion can lead to manufacture in Britain, with all that means for creation of jobs, is at Telford in Shropshire. There Britain's biggest robot-manufacturing project so far, with 120

people turning out robots for both UK and European markets, is the result of technology imported from the US by Unimation, the world's leading manufacturer of industrial robots.

The Telford plant already accounts for by far the biggest slice of UK robot production and it is to be upgraded from being only an assembly plant. Under Unimation's plans, Telford will eventually become a centre of robot research and development, with a new £10m expansion plan now starting.

Mr Joseph Engelberger, Unimation's president, believes that Telford will become the largest centre for robot development and manufacture in the EEC.

There is also a fresh wave of entirely British effort in robot-making. A reborn Remek is among those which should be making this new impact on the market this year.

When Remek Microelectronics, based in Milton Keynes, collapsed early this year it seemed to be an example of the sort of small organizations developing in the UK and elsewhere being crushed by the greater marketing power of large companies using foreign technology. Remek's key robot was designed to replace actions performed by the human arm and with an unusually high accuracy to within two-thousandths of an inch.

Now George P. Brown of Luton, Bedfordshire, has taken over the assets of the old Remek from the receiver. Brown's are large-scale industrial automation systems manufacturers and the Remek robots will be turned out at Luton, with the Milton Keynes centre doing some assembly work and robotic design.

Most of the key development staff from the old Remek have been taken on again, including Mr Roger Bidgood, joint managing director of the old Remek and now a director of the new company V. S. Remek. Three weeks after the new company started operations Mr Bidgood was reporting inquiries which could lead to a number of orders within three months. He added: "The recession world-

wide has slowed everything but things do seem to be more positive now so that a pick-up in trade seems probable later this year, although it may be a slow pick-up."

He believes a key to success is effectively dealing with the individual problems of those wanting to incorporate robots in their manufacturing systems. This means in developing exports, potentially the more fruitful area for British manufacturers, that there is a premium in finding good distributors abroad who understand the problems of installation when automation plans are being put through, says Mr Bidgood.

Several other smaller British companies are pressing forward with robot manufacture. Among them is Systems Control which entered the robotics field with desk-top toys but which is now, at Thornaby in Yorkshire, making production line and research and training machines, tapping markets abroad as well as in Britain.

Another is Pendar Robotics which has established a factory at Ebbw Vale in Wales. Its latest motor technology to give great accuracy in precision assembly work was developed in conjunction with Birmingham University.

A British company breaking new ground is British Robotic Systems, which is funded and wholly owned by the state-backed British Technology Group. It is giving sight to robots, leading to a generation of machines whose movements depend on what is seen through "electronic eyes".

Another factor in the British challenge is the way that big engineering companies tend to develop their own robots as part of a drive into more automated factory systems. This has happened at Rolls-Royce at its Derby aerospace factory, involving preparation of turbine blades. BL Technology, part of the British car manufacturer, has claimed a world breakthrough with its development of a "sniffing" robot to seek potential leaks in cars.

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor



Automatic spot welding in the car plant.

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ING: BRITISH STEEL • IN
G: AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCT
S: BARCLAYS BANK • BPOIL
UK: BRITISH AEROSPACE • B
CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S • C
L: CHLORIDE • FARLEY HEAR
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FACTORY AUTOMATION

TOOLS

When you can't beat them, join them

Britain's machine tool industry has been reduced to a flimsy shadow of its former self. When the nation had an empire, names like Alfred Herbert were respected and admired around the globe; today they have been overtaken by the new industrial giants, many of them Japanese.

British names are still respected (although Alfred Herbert has again gone bust), but the world emphasis has changed and the British industry is learning the painful lesson of the marathon runner - that once you are left far behind, it needs a superhuman effort to catch up with the leaders.

Herbert, in its hey-day one of the country's outstanding blue-chip engineering companies, called in the receivers at the beginning of last month with little hope of reducing its ever-mounting debt burden, which had reached £1.7m.

The industry's authoritative journal, *The Engineer*, said: "Alfred Herbert, one of the leading hopes for the British machine tool industry revival, appears to have become another gravestone marking the industry's continuing decline." It went on to restate the maxim that the industry will not generate sufficient income until it makes the right products.

The sad fact is that instead of leading Britain's manufacturing industry to economic recovery, the machine tool sector is lagging far behind its world competitors in terms of efficiency and competitiveness and is now looking for survival rather than expansion.

The automated factory of the future will require large numbers of sophisticated, computer-controlled machine tools, but only a handful of British companies, such as the 600 Group and Wadkin, are able to supply them. Much of the rest of the industry acts as an importer for foreign-produced wizardry.

The troubles of the industry

are deep-seated and historical. In 1970, sales of UK-manufactured machine tools totalled £455m (at constant 1975 prices) but by 1980 had fallen to £280m.

Because of their own declining fortunes, British engineering companies in the mid-1970s began to cut back drastically on purchases of machine tools, again setting in train the familiar feast-and-famine cycle that has bedevilled machine tool makers for the whole of this century.

The UK producers, however, appeared more ill-equipped than usual to cope with the downturn. Decades of highly conservative, paternalistic management meant that the industry could not react rapidly enough to the two-pronged attack it then faced. From one side came the growing likelihood of recession and the need rapidly to improve competitiveness and product ranges; from the other came the increasing might of the Far Eastern manufacturers.

In 1973, imports accounted for 35 per cent of UK machine tool sales. By 1981 the figure had bounded to 56 per cent, and in the 11 years to 1981, the numbers employed in the UK industry fell from 70,000 to 40,000.

Competition has been particularly aggressive from the cheap, standard machines from

the emerging industries of Taiwan and South Korea, and the 'high technology, numerically-controlled and computer-controlled equipment from Japan. Meanwhile, as the British Technology Group pointed out at the recent machine tool inquiry by the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, too high a proportion of UK machine tool exports has tended to be low technology machines.

The BTG said that in 1980, imports of NC turning machines increased by 21 per cent and machining centres by 46 per cent, and the country had also become overdependent on imports of DC drive systems for machine tools and on foreign built NC systems.

BTG executives remain sceptical about the ability of the UK industry to survive without considerable continuing injections of public funds into new aid schemes. In a memorandum to the Select Committee, they said: "For both national security and economic reasons it is essential to have in the UK a healthy, forward-looking and soundly based machine tool industry. In order to achieve this, Government participation and support on a scale approaching that of the past 20 years is probably inescapable."

It added: "Government may also need to provide support, either financial or otherwise,

where there is unfair competition from overseas."

Certainly, the Government seems more interested in maintaining a machine tool sector than does much of manufacturing industry. The latter's shortsightedness in not replacing worn-out machines with modern, British machines has contributed greatly to machine tool industry's decline. Japan has built up its enviable export record on a stable and attentive home market; in Britain, manufacturers of machine tools have had to look to increasingly difficult foreign markets to provide not the icing but the cake itself.

In an attempt to help machine tools, the Department of Industry recently launched a second Small Engineering Firms Investment Scheme (SEIS 2) backed with £100m of grants and designed to encourage the sale of high technology machines. Within days of its post-Budget launch, applications flooded into Whitehall, but only 55 per cent of them were for help to buy UK machines.

Now, machine tool makers are taking a leaf out of the motor industry's book and forging stronger links with the Japanese. The first to do so was Bridgeport Textron, one of our few remaining companies to make a profit, which recently signed a deal to make small Japanese machining centres at its Leicester factory.

Such ventures probably are a signpost to the future if Britain is to maintain a credible machine tool making sector. Certainly the UK must have access to the most up-to-date technology if it is to take part in the economic upturn, which could be imminent. Frost & Sullivan, the New York analysts, predict that metal-cutting machine tool sales throughout Europe will almost double between now and 1990 to £7,440m.

ET

SCIENCE

The men who make the machines think

Ever since the first electronic computers were developed 40 years ago, a small group of brilliant scientists have been working away in attempts to endow such machines with the ability to think. That research into artificial intelligence is sometimes regarded as the most rarified of computer sciences.

Certainly, at first glance, there seems little in common between the ivory-tower researches of the academics and the real-world problems of the industrialist, particularly since researchers in artificial intelligence shoot off in another direction as soon as their experiments produce ideas which look commercially useful.

Yet the search for intelligent machines has produced many of the important practical advances in applying computers in commerce and industry: the development of visual and graphic displays, timesharing, computer aided design, and visual systems for robots are among them.

Furthermore, the outbreak of enthusiasm for flexible manufacturing, or the ultimate concept in factory automation described elsewhere in this report, only became possible because of the advances made in computer aided design, CAD, and computer-aided manufacturing, CAM, techniques derived from artificial intelligence research.

Before Mrs Thatcher announced the date of the election, CAD-CAM had become one of the blue-eyed technologies with which the Government hoped to see the transformation needed to revitalize British industry. A £6m



Clothes on the move in Steinberg's warehouse at Milton Keynes

awareness scheme was launched by the Department of Industry under its information technology programme to make sure everyone in industry knew about it.

The practical applications of CAD-CAM were perfected in the United States for the aerospace industry. Exploitation by the thousands of firms in Britain which employ less than 500 people, compared with more than 5,000, is not so easy without technical help.

Hence, an even more important government-backed service for the majority of industrialists is the CAD-CAM expertise provided by the Production Engineering Research Association, at Milton Mowbray.

The computer-aided design part of the technology has proved profitable in innumerable applications, because it streamlines the design process

with big savings in time and materials.

The result is that CAD is now used routinely by architects, pharmacists, car designers, planemakers, textile designers, shoe makers, chemical manufacturers, and machine tool producers, as well as those firms which developed it.

Anything that a draughtsman conventionally does using triangles, compasses, pencils and so on can be done with computer graphics programs that are available via a video screen.

The next step, computer-aided manufacturing, CAM, was realized when aircraft makers used the design system also to produce coded instructions to feed directly to numerically controlled machine tools for cutting materials to shape.

Although the link between the design stage and the cutting machine is extremely important, there is a long way to go to achieve the vision conjured by CAD-CAM of the fully automated factory. That involves not just feeding instructions to individual cutting machines, but planning and controlling the flow of materials and components in an orderly stream. Mr Peter Marshall, the head of PERA's research division, estimates that fewer than 5 per cent of applications of this technology come in the CAD-CAM category, the majority only cover the design work. He believes even the best practitioners of CAD-CAM among the aerospace and electronic firms are still using a number of disconnected blocks or stages of operation.

He says factory methods may seem to follow a logical flow until the time comes to write computer programs describing them and, more important, linking them together in a sequence.

The association has devised its own system, PERACAM, for converting design data into manufacturing instructions automatically. Even this will not provide a completely automated system for a firm with a highly complex sequence of factory operations.

The complete merger of CAD-CAM is more difficult to execute on a large factory-scale than on a small one. Yet once a precise design has been completed, all the subsequent activities concerned with converting that data into finished products or components can be completed more quickly by applying some level of CAD-CAM automation.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Flexible thinking

continued from page 13

sponse in terms of interest from companies has been considerable, although the allocation of funds has so far been limited. Seventy-five applications for financial support have been made, but there have been only seven offers of funds, involving commitments of £1.2m.

Announcing the scheme, Mr Baker said: "It is estimated that at least 70 per cent of the output of the engineering sector involves batch production and flexible manufacturing offers immense cost and quality benefits". British industry had been slow to apply flexible systems, however.

"Japan and the United States have around 30 systems each already in operation and more planned. Some companies in the UK have begun to move ahead into flexible manufacturing but not enough or fast enough".

The Government has ear-

marked £25m for research and development into flexible systems, but the other £35m is available for grants to companies. The scheme runs until 1985/6, and financial help falls into two categories.

The Government will pay 50 per cent of the cost of consultancy studies carried out by companies to find whether flexible manufacturing systems are suitable to their business, up to a maximum of £50,000. It will also pay up to 33 per cent grants towards development and capital costs of installing new machinery - and similar amounts to convert existing machines to a flexible system.

The minimum cost of a system necessary to make it eligible for financial support is £200,000, although more complicated systems will inevitably run into several million pounds. Despite this help, however, it is expected to take several years before flexible manufacturing moves from being what is still something of a futuristic concept to a routine feature of British manufacturing industry. A start has been made.

Jonathan Davis

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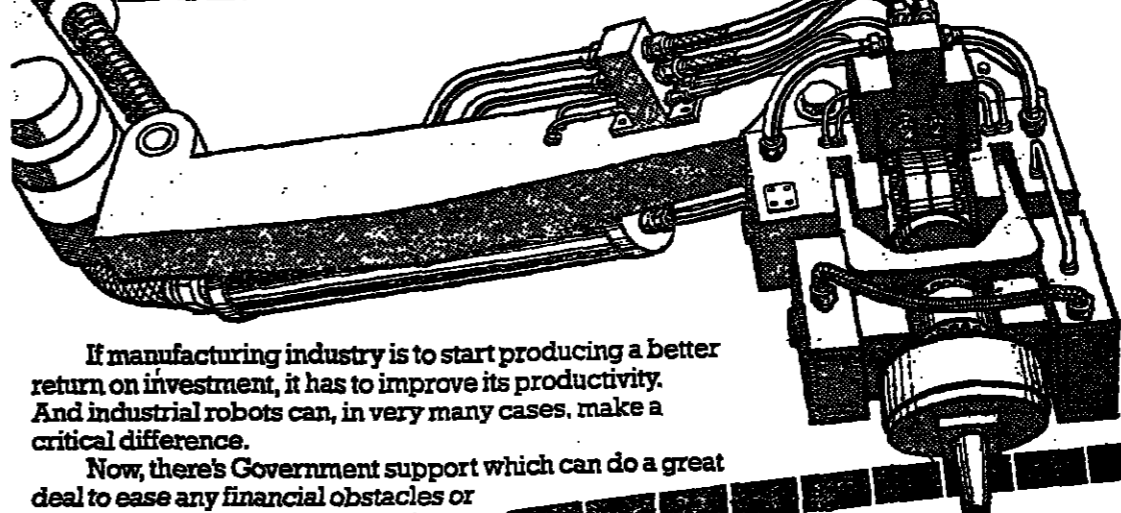
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1982/1983

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Lager should brighten Whitbread's Figures

Britain's drinkers are still keeping their hands firmly in their pockets when it comes to buying more expensive rounds so Whitbread is expected to still show the effects of declining sales in tomorrow's full-year results.

National beer consumption fell 2.9 per cent in the second half of last year after being marginally ahead at the halfway stage. The previous year's second half felt the effects of the appalling winter weather which kept drinkers at home instead of in the pubs and consumption then dropped by 7.9 per cent.

This time the figures will look brighter. The important lager market was strong at the end of the 1982 calendar year and Whitbread's Stella Artois interest was especially successful.

The brewer should make up to £82m, against £73.1m before extraordinary profits from property sales. Whitbread will probably again show property profits below the line rather than taking them above the line.

Whitbread's huge four year rationalization programme finishes at the end of the 1983/84 financial year so expect redundancy costs from demanning at Bedfordshire, Luton and planned closure of Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Wine boxes have been a spectacular success though the

contribution is small in profit terms. More work on the pricing is expected.

There is more uncertainty over the Julius Wile acquisition in the US and the wine and liquor distributor could show a net charge against profits after a lot of restructuring.

If Whitbread has got its formula right it stands to do well in 1984/85 with a big effort on marketing meanwhile to

regain market share where there have been some losses from the determination to maintain margins.

The share price, which has weakened against the market by about 7 per cent over the last month, was up 1p at 137p on Friday.

Grain Metropolis's half year results today will bear the full benefits of last June's £125m rights issue, which debt,

and profits will be more than £100m - against £74.8m.

Full-year profits could be up to £270m. What debt remains will benefit from lower interest rates.

Liggett Grand Met's big US acquisition, is expected to make much of the running this year.

Estimates for General Accident's first quarter results range as widely as those for Royal

Insurance and Commercial Union last week. Pessimists expect £21m, against last time's £14m, against last time's £11.3m. It all depends on how much GA benefited from milder winter weather.

The ultimate ownership of Management Agency and Music continues to exercise fascination in the market.

Queens Most Houses has increased its stake to 6.25 per cent and despite details the City remains convinced that Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group has its eyes on MAM's fruit machine rental business.

Friday's half year results from MAM are expected to show little change on last time's £1m though its Burger King franchises remain a great disappointment.

Thursday is crunch day for Pelly Peck: if profits are up from £3m to £8m as forecast

Investment
and
FinanceCity Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 867.7
FT 100 80.69
FT All Shares 417.91
Bargains: 14,045
Tring Mail USM Index 168.4
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones, 8829.51
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index, 949.58
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average 1218.75 (Friday's close)

CURRENCIES

LONDON
Sterling \$1.5670
Index 83.9
DM 3.8525
¥115.5225
Yan 363.50
Dollar
Index 121.8
DM 2.4435
Gold
\$441.25 up 62 pts
NEW YORK
Gold \$440.50
Sterling \$1.5638 (Friday's close)

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rates 10
3 month interbank 10 1/4 - 10 1/2

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 8 3/4
3 month DM 5 1/4
3 month FF 13 1/4 - 13 1/2

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period April 6 to May 3,
1983 inclusive: 10.304 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Assets Special Situations Trust, Bellway, Matthew Brown, Grand Metropolitan, Radio City (Sound of Merseyside), Thomas' Nationwide Transport (quarterly), Unilever (first quarter), United Scientific Holdings, Finsale Anglo, American Col, Ex-Lands, Exel Group, John Foster and Son, Geers Group, Gold and Base Metal Mines, John C. Small and Tidman, Thomas Warrington and Sons, Weeks Associates.

TOMORROW - Interims: Allied London Properties, Thomas' Northwick and Sons, General Accident Fire and Life Assurance (first quarter), Majestic Investment, Whitland Investment Trust, Finsale Amos Hinton and Sons, Geaves Group, London and Lennox Trust, Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, Walter Rindman, Wearwell, Whitbread and Company.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Carnvermore, Irish Distillers Group, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, NSS Newsagents, Finsale: Advance Services, Ambrose Investment Trust, British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, Guardian and Hill, Hartwells Group, Usher Walker.

THURSDAY - Interims: Construction Holdings, Higsons Brewery, Phillips' Lamps NV (first quarter), Polly Pack, Redman, Heenan International, Royal Dutch Petroleum Co NV (first quarter), Shell Transport and Trading Company (first quarter), Stenhouse Holdings, Whitbread Investment Company, Finsale Co Health Land Securities, London Atlantic Investment Trust, London Trust, Monks Investment, Roper, Selincourt, TR Natural Resources Investment Trust.

FRIDAY - Interims: Management Agency and Music, Finsale: Debenhams, A. Goldberg and Sons, International Paint, Suter.

TDK moves for
London listing

TDK, the Japanese recording tape company, is going ahead with its application for a London listing. Institutions are being briefed today with a meeting with Stock Exchange's quotation committee on Wednesday-dealings are expected to start a week on Friday.

TDK, which is already quoted in New York, Paris and elsewhere, has market capitalization of \$2,200m. Its business is international and it holds its shares to be held internationally. It manufactures in Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, and the US with 43 per cent of its sales outside Japan.

Sales for the year, which ended in November, were \$1,300m, an increase of 12.8 per cent. Profits were \$121m, an increase of 6.2 per cent.

© ECONOMIC FORECAST: A cheerful forecast for the UK economy comes today from the Charterhouse banking group. It predicts a "soundly based" economic recovery with output rising at 3 per cent a year by the end of 1983, enough to start bringing unemployment down. The group says although the upswing is likely to be slower than in the past, it will be more sustainable with less chance of causing faster inflation.

© TRADE-IN-OFFERS: Singapore Airlines (SIA) said it is studying offers from three aeroplanes manufacturers to replace its existing aircraft, plus cash for newer models. A spokesman said SIA is studying "trade-in sale" offers from Boeing, Airbus Industrie and Douglas Aircraft as part of its fleet renewal plan.

Sotheby's
US
bidders
press on

By Jonathan Clare

The two Americans who bid for Sotheby's Parkes Bernet are to carry on with their offer despite the unexpected reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission against the advice of the Office of Fair Trading.

The two, Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid of Knoll International, hold 29.9 per cent of Sotheby's and their offer values the auction house at \$26m.

Mr Cogan hopes to get the US Securities and Exchange Commission to reconsider an ambiguous 1974 ruling to make it clear that allegations about an infringement of SEC rules are unfounded. Mr Cogan settled in 1984 by signing a "consent decree", which meant he did not admit guilt but promised not to repeat the alleged offence. If successful, it would rob opponents of the Cogan-Swid bid of some of their ammunition.

It would also mean the two compared favourably with any "white knight" that the Sotheby board may produce. The board says it has found a counterbidder, whose identity is yet to be revealed. Mr Carl Kahn, a US dawn-raider, is widely believed to have shown an interest. Another likely possibility is Mr B. H. Trupin.

Mr Trupin was revealed last week in *The Times* as the buyer of the Hever Castle, suit of Milanese armour which fetched a record £1.9m.

Posgate to
sue Howden
four

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Ian Posgate is suing four former directors of Alexander Howden to ensure a public airing of the facts surrounding the scandal of misappropriated insurance premiums.

Yesterday, Mr Posgate said he was taking legal action so that it would be impossible for Alexander Alexander, the US owner of Alexander Howden, which is also suing the four for recovery of funds, to reach a private settlement with the four men.

"By doing this and sticking with it everything will be aired in court," he said.

Alexander & Alexander has sued the four and Mr Posgate for the return of \$55m (£35m) which it believes was channelled from Howden to offshore re-insurance companies.

A settlement between the four ex-directors and Alexander & Alexander would leave Mr Posgate out in a lurch.

But contrary to the impression given by Sunday newspaper reports, Mr Posgate has not started his proceedings with the support of Alexander & Alexander with which he is already involved in a counter-attack.

Mr Ken Grob, the former chairman of Howden, said yesterday the matter was being put into his lawyer's hands but would not comment on whether he and his former colleagues might reach a settlement with Alexander & Alexander.

The four have already repaid \$26m of a \$29m claim under the agreement continuing this clause. Alexander & Alexander may be prepared to make a final settlement on payment of, say, another \$10m.

Mr Posgate is suing the four on exactly the same grounds as Alexander & Alexander: "I'm suing for a straightforward cash sum. It means Alexander & Alexander cannot go away."

It also means that Mr Posgate will be able to cross-examine Mr Jack Bogardus, Alexander & Alexander's president, as well as Mr Grob, and the other ex-directors - Mr Ron Cornery, Mr Jack Carpenter and Mr Allan Page.

M. Jacques de Larosiere, who has secured a second term as managing director of the International Monetary Fund, is likely to be given greatly increased power to shape the world's economy.

It is also likely that he will face increasing criticism from Third World leaders, some of whom fear that political revolution could result from IMF-imposed conditions.

M. de Larosiere has established himself as one of the most powerful men on the world economic scene. During his first five-year term, the 53-year-old Frenchman earned high marks for his deft handling of a surprisingly acute international debt crisis which brought more than 25 countries to the brink of bankruptcy.

His next term, which begins on June 16, is likely to be even more important. In his newly enhanced role, M. de Larosiere is certain to continue the strict

By Our Financial Staff

The takeover battle for Key Markets, the 106-strong supermarket chain owned by Fitch Lovell, intensified over the weekend when Linfood said that it would match an increased offer from Safeway.

Safeway said on Saturday that it was prepared to pay £40.8m for the chain, its earlier offer of £34.8m had won the approval of the Fitch Lovell board and chairman, Mr Michael Webster, in late April, but was topped last Thursday by Linfood with an offer of £37.8m.

Linfood's chairman, Mr Alec Monk, was reported over the weekend as saying that he would match the latest Safeway offer. Yesterday he was said to be attending meetings in London, and a company official said that he was likely to write to shareholders later this week.

The Fitch Lovell board also spent most of yesterday afternoon in a meeting.

Mr Monk's willingness to

Now, however, Mr Monk has

Boom in car sales
'set to end soon'

By David Young

The boom in UK car sales - fuelled by easier hire purchase and sales incentives - will end in the second half of the year, according to a survey published today by DRI Europe.

By then, the survey says, the present buoyant sales will run out of steam and will lead to a "playback" next year, when sales will fall by an estimated 30,000 units.

DRI says that their forecast of 1.68 million car sales this year is at least 70,000 more than underlying economic performance would suggest and point out that British manufacturers are far from happy with the profit implications of the incentive measures.

Stability should return to the market with the gradual recovery of the economy with DRI expecting a return to a more "natural" level of sales and consistent growth until 1988.

The survey adds that industrial unrest still hangs over the industry, although it adds that the success of the Metro and Maestro have transformed B.L.'s short-term position. The recent fall in sterling has underpinned the Maestro's competitiveness in a sector of the European market where B.L. has traditionally been weak.

For Europe overall, energy,

NEW CAR SALES

	1983	1984	1988
West Germany	2.22	2.27	2.54
France	1.52	2.00	2.06
UK	1.68	1.65	1.71
Italy	1.61	1.70	1.72
Western Europe total	10.00	10.30	11.09
USA	9.01	10.34	11.36
Japan	3.13	3.20	3.28

CAR PRODUCTION

	1983	1984	1988
West Germany	3.63	3.73	4.13
France	2.80	2.76	2.04
UK	1.00	1.01	0.96
Italy	1.40	1.49	1.58
Western Europe total	10.41	10.78	11.50
North America (incl Canada)	7.17	8.13	8.93
Japan	7.08	7.58	8.05

DRI World Auto Forecast Report £200 or \$1,800

DRI Europe, 30 Old Queen St, London SW1H 9HP.

More disclosures urged
on company pensions

By Our Financial Staff

Shareholders would get substantially more information on the solvency and possible cost of pension schemes run by their companies under a new accounting standard proposed today by the Accounting Standards Committee.

The proposals unveiled for discussion would require public companies to explain first what kind of scheme they run for the benefit of employees and whether it is run with the advice of a qualified actuary.

In a note to the balance sheet, the company would have to

disclose the effect on profits of pension fund contributions, and whether these were normal or exceptional charges. Any plans or commitments to change the level of contribution which the company pays into the fund would also have to be disclosed.

The proposals are open for comment until November 30. As outlined and taken with the requirement for increased information included in the Companies Act 1981 they represent a significant increase in the required level of pension fund disclosure.

create more employment.

But this is unlikely during the reign of M. de Larosiere, a former director of the French Treasury.

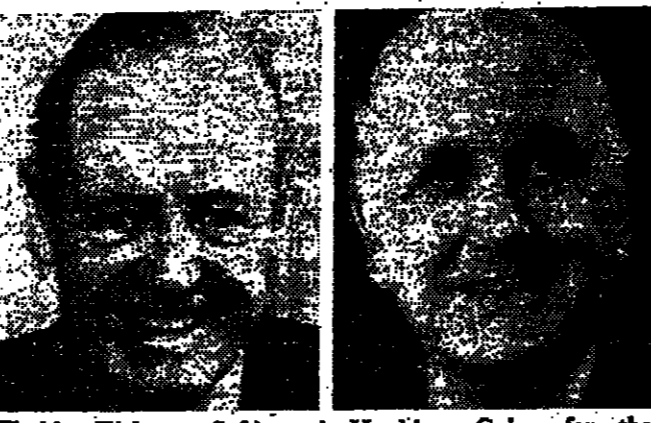
M. de Larosiere's reappointment last week was virtually unchallenged by members of the IMF's board of executive directors, partly because of his success in convincing commercial banks to continue lending to the big debtor countries.

The key representatives of the 146 IMF countries, along with officials of the powerful Western central banks, have been impressed by M. de Larosiere's success in preventing countries from defaulting over the last eight months.

His critics within the IMF are outnumbered by supporters, who note that it was M. de Larosiere who promoted a more flexible policy of longer loans that had been typical when he was named managing director in 1978.

Some would like the IMF to relax some of its conditions to allow debtor countries to top up their economies in order to

Tactical battle expected before vote on Friday

Linfood to match Safeway's new
£41m offer for Key Markets

Fitch's Webster (left) and Hankins: Going for the

Safeway bid.

commit himself to an increased offer for Key Markets makes it unlikely that Linfood will renew its bid for the whole of Fitch Lovell. It launched a £72m offer for the company last September, and finally received the go-ahead after a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last week.

Although the two bids would

be of equal value, Safeway currently has the support of the Fitch Lovell board, which is believed to be concerned that if Linfood successfully blocks the Safeway deal, then it might still renew its bid for the whole group.

Fitch is also concerned to push the sale through quickly: its shareholders meet on Friday to vote on it. There is a danger that if it opted for Linfood's offer at this late stage, it might be withdrawn or vetoed by shareholders later on, leaving Fitch Lovell with no deal at all.

The stage is now set for a tactical battle in the run up to Friday's meeting. Linfood has asked Fitch Lovell for access to detailed information on Key Markets, but this has so far been denied - apparently at Safeway's insistence.

But even without further knowledge, it is expected to press its bid and attempt to persuade the Fitch Lovell board to adopt a neutral stance, and

leave it to shareholders to

choose which offer they prefer. Mr Monk is also expected to renew his efforts to meet the Fitch board or its chief executive, Geoff Hankins, in an effort to reduce the tension between the two groups.

Fitch Lovell has asked shareholders to return proxy forms allowing the chairman to vote on their behalf, either for the Safeway deal or for an adjournment of the meeting. Linfood, on the other hand, has already circulated shareholders and asked them to block the Safeway deal.

© AGENCY DEAL: Foote Cone & Belding London, a subsidiary of Foote Cone & Belding Communications, said it has reached agreement to acquire a majority interest in Carrat's yombe. Terms are not disclosed. Carrat's yombe, a full service advertising agency, was founded in 1960. The agency has offices in Nottingham and Manchester.

City Comment

Pinball
wizard at
the Fed

American money policy is in a mess. The target money measures have been so grossly distorted by financial deregulation and the introduction of new financial instruments, such as interest-bearing current accounts, that no one knows what they mean.

They have ceased to bear, if they ever did, any stable predictable relationship with nominal national income growth, the ultimate policy goal for which money targets are simply an intermediate tool.

Yet, though the Federal Reserve Board has said it is paying less attention to money growth while distortions persist, it has failed to put any coherent policy rule in its place. The result is that the financial markets are baffled about what the Fed is trying to do.

Every economic trigger - the latest figures on inflation, money growth, output - touches off a gut response in the markets as they try to sense how the Fed will respond. And there must be a suspicion that this is what the Fed is doing - too - the pinball wizard approach to policy, as Mr David Morrison, of the stockbrokers Simon and Coates, characterizes it in a paper out today.

Mr Morrison, who estimates that interest rate volatility has doubled since the Fed introduced its new money control procedures in 1979, believes that rates and volatility will stay high unless the Fed changes course.

Having instilled into the markets the firm conviction that the pace of money growth determines inflation, however, Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed's chairman, faces a tough job to convince them that the money numbers are no longer critical. His task would be easier if he had something sensible to put in its place.

Flat results likely
from Unilever

By Our Financial Staff

Flat profit and sales figures are expected from Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch margarine and detergent group, when it reports first quarter profits today.

Although the US subsidiary is at last showing a better performance, the improvement has been offset by higher promotional spending.

European volumes may have been hit by lower exports to Nigeria, and worse results on translation into sterling from countries like Brazil after accounting changes are expected.

Heavy exceptional costs from rationalization are expected again, but productivity gains should be at about 5 per cent.

Combined first quarter profits of the group should be between £160m and £185m, compared with last year's £179m. Full year results are expected to be between £750m and £790m, against £725m.

The shares have seen some weakness after the company's forecast of little economic improvement this year and worries about first-half volume sales.

OTC regulations sought

By Our Financial Staff

The seven licensed dealers which make an "over-the-counter market" in about 30 stocks of small companies are trying to bring some ground rules into the business.

Included in the self-regulation measures would be procedures for resolving disputes, a compensation fund, minimum liquidity requirements for members of a new trade association, disclosure requirements for companies

quoted and a requirement for all members to deal in all the stocks.

Granville (the old M J H Nightingale) the best-known member of over-the-counter markets, is not involved - it has exclusive rights over the stocks in which it deals.

Many companies traded over-the-counter would be unable to meet either the requirements of a full listing

preliminary talks between a working party of retailers coordinated by the Retail Consortium - the trade body for most United Kingdom retail interests - and the clearing banks.

But the crunch will come after a final decision, expected this summer, from the banks on whether they will go ahead with the terminals plan. It would mean putting in extensive computerization, because the system would allow a customer's account to be debited for the shopping bill and the retailer's account to be credited.

The banks appear to be considering bringing in the system for even small retail outlets whose terminals could

be linked with the banks' computer network by telephone line. Small retailers are unlikely to be asked to pay immediately for terminals but would instead pay an annual charge to wipe off the cost.

If the banks decided to go ahead this summer and terms were agreed with retailers, the first terminals would probably be in the shops by 1985. The banks' project team is apparently envisaging 100 terminals doing 500,000 transactions in 1985.

The project team is arguing that retailers should foot the bill for the system because it would save a retailer 7p on the cost of collection on a traditional cheque.

Banks and retailers haggle
over computer cards bill

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Retailers and the big clearing banks are at loggerheads over who should pay for a country-wide network of electronic terminals for payments at the counter by plastic card.

Millions of pounds, which will have to be spent on providing the terminals, are at issue. The banks' project team, which has been investigating the possibility of electronic funds transfer systems at the point of sale, has suggested that costs could be around £800 a terminal. A further systems connection charge might also be levied.

In most stores it could mean having a terminal at every cash point or supermarket checkout. There have already been

preliminary talks between a working party of retailers coordinated by the Retail Consortium - the trade body for most United Kingdom retail interests - and the clearing banks.

But the crunch will come after a final decision, expected this summer, from the banks on whether they will go ahead with the terminals plan. It would mean putting in extensive computerization, because the system would allow a customer's account to be debited for the shopping bill and the retailer's account to be credited.

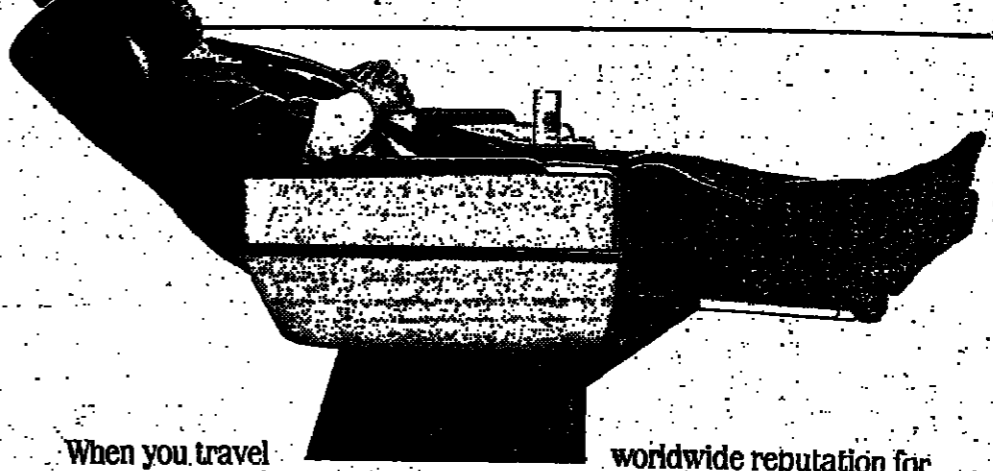
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When you travel First Class on Japan Air Lines you can lie back and relax.

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excellence. Combine that with our daily flights from Heathrow to Tokyo and you combine the best of all possible worlds.

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The longer the flight, the more the details matter.

JAPAN AIR LINES

MOTOR RACING: CHAMPION SETS A PACE TOO BLISTERING FOR HIS OWN GOOD

Rosberg is the master of Monaco

From David Miller

30 minutes to go to the start of the Monaco Grand Prix and the rain is spitting with rain. A mile out to sea a blue-grey mist clouds the horizon. It is now, in the pits, that the race will probably be won and lost.

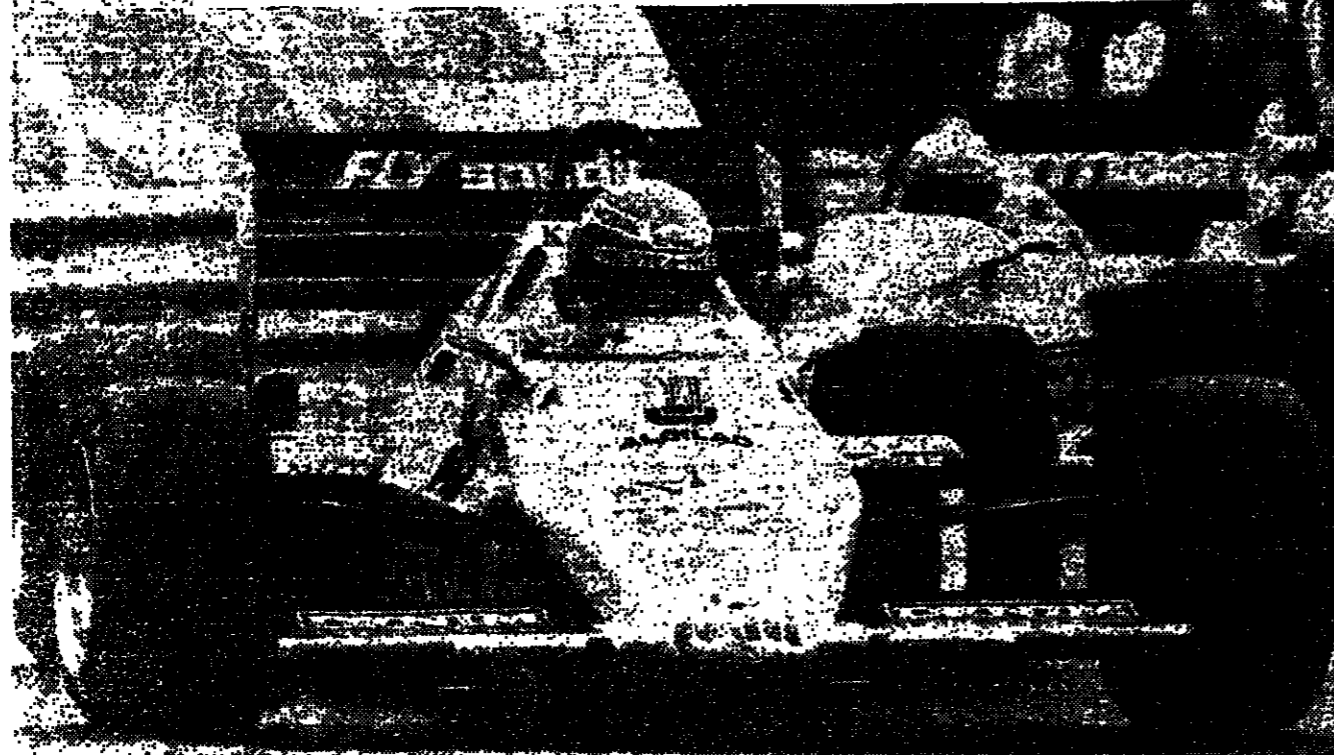
A vast crowd are gathered in the Principality, maybe 250,000 or more, spiralling upwards from the water's edge, perched on every balcony, ledge, rock and roof-top until it looks like some Galapagos island of multi-coloured, migrating birds. And while they perch 20 team managers must make the decision - wet tyres or dry. A marshal's patrol car emphasises the point by spinning back to front, causing a nervous laugh.

The starters have assembled out on the grid, all the turbos, including the Renaults and the Ferraris on the front two rows, with wet tyres because of their colossal kick, some frantically changing after the warm-up lap. The World champion, Keke Rosberg, in his Cosworth-Williams, fifth on the grid, does his reconnaissance lap - and keeps his dry tyres.

By the end of the first lap of the race Rosberg has taken all four turbos in front, never to be challenged again the rain holds off and by the time the rain stops, it is too late. Rosberg will drive like a master.

In that first lap Nigel Mansell (Lotus) has collided with Alboreo's Tyrrell and his performance for Monaco goes sharply into reverse. Behind Rosberg all the leaders maintain their original sequence on the grid, though after five laps René Arnoux (Ferrari) is in serious trouble, limping in with a shredded tyre, and by lap eight, Jacques Laffite has moved up to make it one and two for Williams.

With a third of the race gone the threat to the Williams stable



A Finn going flat out for the finish: Rosberg drives like the champion he is as he puts Piquet firmly in his place

comes from Marc Surer (Aerons) and, believe it or not, the Hampshire outfit of Derek Warwick and his Toleman turbo.

So the race proceeds, the power of the turbos making your toes tingle inside your shoes as the basics come rocketing out of Bascasse corner. Down in the Williams pit Rosberg's girl-friend stands in a ring of spent cigarette ends, endlessly licking dry lips with a dry tongue, watching the TV monitor, occasionally taking the lap times on his watch, which she is wearing and which swamps her wrist.

She barely glances at the green-and-white car as it hurries

past, peeling off the laps slowly, it seems, at an average 86mph round those tortuous hairpins. Suddenly, with two thirds of the race gone, the outsider Warwick tries to take Surer on the harbour straight; their wheels touch and Surer swears back to front go in the six-hour race. Each will politely blame the other but they are out. Some say if Warwick had bided his time, with the subsequent retirement of Laffite through engine trouble, he could have been third.

The blonde girl in the faded jeans and flat pink ballet shoes holding Rosberg's watch pulls her ankle around her shoulder and slowly shakes her head. She is as yet unaware that

Rosberg's hands are severely blistered inside his flame-proof gloves from the huge kickback on the steering wheel as he comes out of the hairpins, and from the 2,000-odd gear changes.

Four laps later Laffite comes in, gear-less gone. He wrenches off his helmet, balaclava, suit. Dark hair matted with sweat down his back and arms, he is gaunt, looking his 40 years and more. He drinks from a bottle as if it were his last and the pit signals to Rosberg: 48-second lead on Piquet with 20 laps to go. He can nurse those blisters, and the tyres, which have only a 30 per cent margin, but he occasionally the girl holding his

watch glances at the mechanics and smiles. It is all over, until next time.

MONACO GRAND PRIX: 1. K. Rosberg (Fin) Williams, 1:18.47.2; 2. N. Piquet (Arg) Renault, 1:18.47.2; 3. P. Piquet (Arg) Renault, 1:18.47.2; 4. P. Tambay (Fra) Ferrari, 1:18.47.2; 5. D. Surer (Ger) Toleman, 1:18.47.2; 6. M. Surer (Ger) Toleman, 1:18.47.2; 7. J. P. Jost (Sui) Alfa Romeo, 1:18.47.2; 8. J. P. Jost (Sui) Alfa Romeo, 1:18.47.2; 9. J. P. Jost (Sui) Alfa Romeo, 1:18.47.2; 10. J. P. Jost (Sui) Alfa Romeo, 1:18.47.2.

New date for bout
Foul (AP) - A World Boxing Council light flyweight title bout between Chang Chong-Ku, the champion, and Masaharu Inami of Japan, will now take place on June 4.

EQUESTRIANISM

By Jenny MacArthur

Clearly St James's day

Nick Skelton, on Mr Terry Clements' St James, won the £3,000 first prize in yesterday's Modern Alarms Classic Grand Prix, the most valuable show jumping event at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Pam Dunning was second on Fearless, owned by Griffin and Brand, on which she was at the highest of her skills. Skelton's wife, Sarah, riding her own Sherwood, came third. The rain held off yesterday but the going was sticky. Mrs Skelton and Brian Griffiths, a less familiar team who are so adept at doubles that each can fit in with almost any partner. Edmondson had won eight consecutive doubles in a fortnight with Patrick Cash and Griffiths in turn. Give an Australian the faintest whiff of a "team" concept, and he instantly finds top gear.

SEMI-FINALS: V. Noy (Fin) vs E. Fromm (US), 6-4; J. Higuera (US) vs G. Vlas (Arg), 5-1.

ATHLETICS: Carl Lewis became the world's second fastest man over 100 metres when he recorded 9.96 seconds in Modesto, California, on Sunday. The time was a hundredth of a second slower than that set by his fellow American, Jim Hines, at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Hines watched Lewis and said: "I don't know how he did it, but I'll hold the record. This man is knocking on the door."

RIFLE SHOOTING: The Duchess of Argyll, shooting at Bisley for the first time yesterday, won the Scottish VIII Challenge Cup for the best Scottish score at the National Rifle Club of Scotland. The Countess Cup for the best overall aggregate in two days was won for

the third year in succession by John de Havilland (English VIII).

TENNIS: Chris Lloyd heads a strong entry for the West German Women's open championship starting in Berlin today.

SPEEDWAY: England yesterday lifted themselves off the door to reach the semi-finals of the world team championship at Wimbledon on June 26. They made a dreadful start to the United Kingdom qualifying round, losing to the Netherlands 1-2, but they won their first win, then fought back to finish second behind the United States.

Boxing: The British heavy-weight title bout between Neville Meade and

David Pearce, originally planned to take place last November in London and now scheduled for Cardiff on June 15, may be off altogether.

But McCarthy, who was as Pearce's manager, is due to make an announcement about his future today. This could involve Pearce pulling out of the title bout and boxing instead as a cruiserweight.

Swimming: The 1983 world alpine championships will be held in Bormio, Italy, and the nordic championships the same year in Seefeld, Austria, the international federation (FIS) announced on Saturday. In 1987 the alpine championships move to Crans Montana, Switzerland, and the nordic championships to Oberstdorf, West Germany.

IN BRIEF
PARIS: European championships: Romania won 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, 7-0, 8-0, 9-0, 10-0, 11-0, 12-0, 13-0, 14-0, 15-0, 16-0, 17-0, 18-0, 19-0, 20-0, 21-0, 22-0, 23-0, 24-0, 25-0, 26-0, 27-0, 28-0, 29-0, 30-0, 31-0, 32-0, 33-0, 34-0, 35-0, 36-0, 37-0, 38-0, 39-0, 40-0, 41-0, 42-0, 43-0, 44-0, 45-0, 46-0, 47-0, 48-0, 49-0, 50-0, 51-0, 52-0, 53-0, 54-0, 55-0, 56-0, 57-0, 58-0, 59-0, 60-0, 61-0, 62-0, 63-0, 64-0, 65-0, 66-0, 67-0, 68-0, 69-0, 70-0, 71-0, 72-0, 73-0, 74-0, 75-0, 76-0, 77-0, 78-0, 79-0, 80-0, 81-0, 82-0, 83-0, 84-0, 85-0, 86-0, 87-0, 88-0, 89-0, 90-0, 91-0, 92-0, 93-0, 94-0, 95-0, 96-0, 97-0, 98-0, 99-0, 100-0, 101-0, 102-0, 103-0, 104-0, 105-0, 106-0, 107-0, 108-0, 109-0, 110-0, 111-0, 112-0, 113-0, 114-0, 115-0, 116-0, 117-0, 118-0, 119-0, 120-0, 121-0, 122-0, 123-0, 124-0, 125-0, 126-0, 127-0, 128-0, 129-0, 130-0, 131-0, 132-0, 133-0, 134-0, 135-0, 136-0, 137-0, 138-0, 139-0, 140-0, 141-0, 142-0, 143-0, 144-0, 145-0, 146-0, 147-0, 148-0, 149-0, 150-0, 151-0, 152-0, 153-0, 154-0, 155-0, 156-0, 157-0, 158-0, 159-0, 160-0, 161-0, 162-0, 163-0, 164-0, 165-0, 166-0, 167-0, 168-0, 169-0, 170-0, 171-0, 172-0, 173-0, 174-0, 175-0, 176-0, 177-0, 178-0, 179-0, 180-0, 181-0, 182-0, 183-0, 184-0, 185-0, 186-0, 187-0, 188-0, 189-0, 190-0, 191-0, 192-0, 193-0, 194-0, 195-0, 196-0, 197-0, 198-0, 199-0, 200-0, 201-0, 202-0, 203-0, 204-0, 205-0, 206-0, 207-0, 208-0, 209-0, 210-0, 211-0, 212-0, 213-0, 214-0, 215-0, 216-0, 217-0, 218-0, 219-0, 220-0, 221-0, 222-0, 223-0, 224-0, 225-0, 226-0, 227-0, 228-0, 229-0, 230-0, 231-0, 232-0, 233-0, 234-0, 235-0, 236-0, 237-0, 238-0, 239-0, 240-0, 241-0, 242-0, 243-0, 244-0, 245-0, 246-0, 247-0, 248-0, 249-0, 250-0, 251-0, 252-0, 253-0, 254-0, 255-0, 256-0, 257-0, 258-0, 259-0, 260-0, 261-0, 262-0, 263-0, 264-0, 265-0, 266-0, 267-0, 268-0, 269-0, 270-0, 271-0, 272-0, 273-0, 274-0, 275-0, 276-0, 277-0, 278-0, 279-0, 280-0, 281-0, 282-0, 283-0, 284-0, 285-0, 286-0, 287-0, 288-0, 289-0, 290-0, 291-0, 292-0, 293-0, 294-0, 295-0, 296-0, 297-0, 298-0, 299-0, 300-0, 301-0, 302-0, 303-0, 304-0, 305-0, 306-0, 307-0, 308-0, 309-0, 310-0, 311-0, 312-0, 313-0, 314-0, 315-0, 316-0, 317-0, 318-0, 319-0, 320-0, 321-0, 322-0, 323-0, 324-0, 325-0, 326-0, 327-0, 328-0, 329-0, 330-0, 331-0, 332-0, 333-0, 334-0, 335-0, 336-0, 337-0, 338-0, 339-0, 340-0, 341-0, 342-0, 343-0, 344-0, 345-0, 346-0, 347-0, 348-0, 349-0, 350-0, 351-0, 352-0, 353-0, 354-0, 355-0, 356-0, 357-0, 358-0, 359-0, 360-0, 361-0, 362-0, 363-0, 364-0, 365-0, 366-0, 367-0, 368-0, 369-0, 370-0, 371-0, 372-0, 373-0, 374-0, 375-0, 376-0, 377-0, 378-0, 379-0, 380-0, 381-0, 382-0, 383-0, 384-0, 385-0, 386-0, 387-0, 388-0, 389-0, 390-0, 391-0, 392-0, 393-0, 394-0, 395-0, 396-0, 397-0, 398-0, 399-0, 400-0, 401-0, 402-0, 403-0, 404-0, 405-0, 406-0, 407-0, 408-0, 409-0, 410-0, 411-0, 412-0, 413-0, 414-0, 415-0, 416-0, 417-0, 418-0, 419-0, 420-0, 421-0, 422-0, 423-0, 424-0, 425-0, 426-0, 427-0, 428-0, 429-0, 430-0, 431-0, 432-0, 433-0, 434-0, 435-0, 436-0, 437-0, 438-0, 439-0, 440-0, 441-0, 442-0, 443-0, 444-0, 445-0, 446-0, 447-0, 448-0, 449-0, 450-0, 451-0, 452-0, 453-0, 454-0, 455-0, 456-0, 457-0, 458-0, 459-0, 460-0, 461-0, 462-0, 463-0, 464-0, 465-0, 466-0, 467-0, 468-0, 469-0, 470-0, 471-0, 472-0, 473-0, 474-0, 475-0, 476-0, 477-0, 478-0, 479-0, 480-0, 481-0, 482-0, 483-0, 484-0, 485-0, 486-0, 487-0, 488-0, 489-0, 490-0, 491-0, 492-0, 493-0, 494-0, 495-0, 496-0, 497-0, 498-0, 499-0, 500-0, 501-0, 502-0, 503-0, 504-0, 505-0, 506-0, 507-0, 508-0, 509-0, 510-0, 511-0, 512-0, 513-0, 514-0, 515-0, 516-0, 517-0, 518-0, 519-0, 520-0, 521-0, 522-0, 523-0, 524-0, 525-0, 526-0, 527-0, 528-0, 529-0, 530-0, 531-0, 532-0, 533-0, 534-0, 535-0, 536-0, 537-0, 538-0, 539-0, 540-0, 541-0, 542-0, 543-0, 544-0, 545-0, 546-0, 547-0, 548-0, 549-0, 550-0, 551-0, 552-0, 553-0, 554-0, 555-0, 556-0, 557-0, 558-0, 559-0, 560-0, 561-0, 562-0, 563-0, 564-0, 565-0, 566-0, 567-0, 568-0, 569-0, 570-0, 571-0, 572-0, 573-0, 574-0, 575-0, 576-0, 577-0, 578-0, 579-0, 580-0, 581-0, 582-0, 583-0, 584-0, 585-0, 586-0, 587-0, 588-0, 589-0, 590-0, 591-0, 592-0, 593-0, 594-0, 595-0, 596-0, 597-0, 598-0, 599-0, 600-0, 601-0, 602-0, 603-0, 604-0, 605-0, 606-0, 607-0, 608-0, 609-0, 610-0, 611-0, 612-0, 613-0, 614-0, 615-0, 616-0, 617-0, 618-0, 619-0, 620-0, 621-0, 622-0, 623-0, 624-0, 625-0, 626-0, 627-0, 628-0, 629-0, 630-0, 631-0, 632-0, 633-0, 634-0, 635-0, 636-0, 637-0, 638-0, 639-0, 640-0, 641-0, 642-0, 643-0, 644-0, 645-0, 646-0, 647-0, 648-0, 649-0, 650-0, 651-0, 652-0, 653-0, 654-0, 655-0, 656-0, 657-0, 658-0, 659-0, 660-0, 661-0, 662-0, 663-0, 664-0, 665-0, 666-0, 667-0, 668-0, 669-0, 670-0, 671-0, 672-0, 673-0, 674-0, 675-0, 676-0, 677-0, 678-0, 679-0, 680-0, 681-0, 682-0, 683-0, 684-0, 685-0, 686-0, 687-0, 688-0, 689-0, 690-0, 691-0, 692-0, 693-0, 694-0, 695-0, 696-0, 697-0, 698-0, 699-0, 700-0, 701-0, 702-0, 703-0, 704-0, 705-0, 706-0, 707-0, 708-0, 709-0, 710-0, 711-0, 712-0, 713-0, 714-0, 715-0, 716-0, 717-0, 718-0, 719-0, 720-0, 721-0, 722-0, 723-0, 724-0, 725-0, 726-0, 727-0, 728-0, 729-0, 730-0, 731-0, 732-0, 733-0, 734-0, 735-0, 736-0, 737-0, 738-0, 739-0, 740-0, 741-0, 742-0, 743-0, 744-0, 745-0, 746-0, 747-0, 748-0, 749-0, 750-0, 751-0, 752-0, 753-0, 754-0, 755-0, 756-0, 757-0, 758-0, 759-0, 760-0, 761-0, 762-0, 763-0, 764-0, 765-0, 766-0, 767-0, 768-0, 769-0, 770-0, 771-0, 772-0, 773-0, 774-0, 775-0, 776-0, 777-0, 778-0, 779-0, 780-0, 781-0, 782-0, 783-0, 784-0, 785-0, 786-0, 787-0, 788-0, 789-0, 790-0, 791-0, 792-0, 793-0, 794-0, 795-0, 796-0, 797-0, 798-0, 799-0, 800-0, 801-0, 802-0, 803-0, 804-0, 805-0, 806-0, 807-0, 808-0, 809-0, 810-0, 811-0, 812-0, 813-0, 814-0, 815-0, 816-0, 817-0, 818-0, 819-0, 820-0, 821-0, 822-0, 823-0, 824-0, 825-0, 826-0, 827-0, 828-0, 829-0, 830-0, 831-0, 832-0, 833-0, 834-0, 835-0, 836-0, 837-0, 838-0, 839-0, 840-0, 841-0, 842-0, 843-0, 844-0, 845-0, 846-0, 847-0, 848-0, 849-0, 850-0, 851-0, 852-0, 853-0, 854-0, 855-0, 856-0, 857-0, 858-0, 859-0, 860-0, 861-0, 862-0, 863-0, 864-0, 865-0, 866-0, 867-0, 868-0, 869-0, 870-0, 871-0, 872-0, 873-0, 874-0, 875-0, 876-0, 877-0, 878-0, 879-0, 880-0, 881-0, 882-0, 883-0, 884-0, 885-0, 886-0, 887-0, 888-0, 889-0, 890-0, 891-0, 892-0, 893-0, 894-0, 895-0, 896-0, 897-0, 898-0, 899-0, 900-0, 901-0, 902-0, 903-0, 904-0, 905-0, 906-0, 907-0, 908-0, 909-0, 910-0, 911-0, 912-0, 913-0, 914-0, 915-0, 916-0, 917-0, 918-0, 919-0, 920-0, 921-0, 922-0, 923-0, 924-0, 925-0, 926-0, 927-0, 928-0, 929-0, 930-0, 931-0, 932-0, 933-0, 934-0, 935-0, 936-0, 937-0, 938-0, 939-0, 940-0, 941-0, 942-0, 943-0, 944-0, 945-0, 946-0, 947-0, 948-0, 949-0, 950-0, 951-0, 952-0, 953-0, 954-0, 955-0, 956-0, 957-0, 958-0, 959-0, 960-0, 961-0, 962-0, 963-0, 964-0, 965-0, 966-0, 967-0, 968-0, 969-0, 970-0, 971-0, 972-0, 973-0, 974-0, 975-0, 976-0, 977-0, 978-0, 979-0, 980-0, 981-0, 982-0, 983-0, 984-0, 985-0, 986-0, 987-0, 988-0, 989-0, 990-0, 991-0, 992-0, 993-0, 994-0, 995-0, 996-0, 997-0, 998-0, 999-0, 1000-0, 1001-0, 1002-0, 1003-0, 1004-0, 1005-0, 1006-0, 1007-0, 1008-0, 1009-0, 1010-0, 1011-0, 1012-0, 1013-0, 1014-0, 1015-0, 1016-0, 1017-0, 1018-0, 1019-0, 1020-0, 1021-0, 1022-0, 1023-0, 1024-0, 1025-0, 1026-0, 1027-0, 1028-0, 1029-0, 1030-0, 1031-0, 1032-0, 1033-0, 1034-0, 1035-0, 1036-0, 1037-0, 1038-0, 1039-0, 1040-0, 1041-0, 1042-0, 1043-0, 1044-0, 1045-0, 1046-0, 1047-0, 1048-0, 1049-0, 1050-0, 1051-0, 1052-0, 1053-0, 1054-0, 1055-0, 1056-0, 1057-0, 1058-0, 1059-0, 1060-0, 1061-0, 1062-0, 1063-0, 1064-0, 1065-0, 1066-0, 1067-0, 1068-0, 1069-0, 1070-0, 1071-0, 1072-0, 1073-0, 1074-0, 1075-0, 1076-0, 1077-0, 1078-0, 1079-0, 1080-0, 1081-0, 1082-0, 1083-0, 1084-0, 1085-0, 1086-0, 1087-0, 1088-0, 1089-0, 1090-0, 1091-0, 1092-0, 1093-0, 1094-0, 1095-0, 1096-0, 1097-0, 1098-0, 1099-0, 1100-0, 1101-0, 1102-0, 1103-0, 1104-0, 1105-0, 1106-0, 1107-0, 1108-0, 1109-0, 1110-0, 1111-0, 1112-0, 1113-0, 1114-0, 1115-0, 1116-0, 1117-0, 1118-0, 1119-0, 1120-0, 1121-0, 1122-0, 1123-0, 1124-0, 1125-0, 1126-0, 1127-0, 1128-0, 1129-0, 1130-0, 1131-0, 1132-0, 1133-0, 1134-0, 1135-0, 1136-0, 1137-0, 1138-0, 1139-0, 1140-0, 1141-0, 1142-0, 1143-0, 1144-0, 1145-0, 1146-0, 1147-0, 1148-0, 1149-0, 1150-0, 1151-0, 1152-0, 1153-0, 1154-0, 1155-0, 1156-0, 1157-0, 1158-0, 1159-0, 1160-0, 1161-0, 1162-0, 1163-0, 1164-0, 1165-0, 1166-0, 1167-0, 1168-0, 1169-0, 1170-0, 1171-0, 1172-0, 1173-0, 1174-0, 1175-0, 1176-0, 1177-0, 1178-0, 1179-0, 1180-0, 1181-0, 1182-0, 1183-0, 1184-0, 1185-0, 1186-0, 1187-0, 1188-0, 1189-0, 1190-0, 1191-0, 1192-0, 1193-0, 1194-0, 1195-0, 1196-0, 1197-0, 1198-0, 1199-0, 1200-0, 1201-0, 1202-0, 1203-0, 1204-0, 1205-0, 1206-0, 1207-0, 1208-0, 1209-0, 1210-0, 1211-0, 1212-0, 1213-0, 1214-0, 1215-0, 1216-0, 1217-0, 1218-0, 1219-0, 1220-0, 1221-0, 1222-0, 1223-0, 1224-0, 1225-0, 1226-0, 1227-0, 1228-0, 1229-0, 1230-0, 1231-0, 1232-0, 1233-0, 1234-0, 1235-0, 1236-0, 1237-0, 1238-0, 1239-0, 1240-0, 1241-0, 1242-0, 1243-0, 1244-0, 1245-0, 1246-0, 1247-0, 1248-0, 1249-0, 1250-0, 1251-0, 1252-0, 1253-0, 1254-0, 1255-0, 1256-0, 1257-0, 1258-0, 1259-0, 1260-0, 1261-0, 1262-0, 1263-0, 1264-0, 1265-0, 1266-0, 1267-0, 1268-0, 1269-0, 1270-0, 1271-0, 1272-0, 1273-0, 1274-0, 1275-0, 1276-

Predominate the final piece in Piggott puzzle

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

As the Derby draws closer the great occasion falls on June 1 this year two important questions will remain to be answered: one of the most topsy-turvy, baffling starts to the season that I can recall - what will Lester Piggott ride and what will Vincent O'Brien saddle?

The two men's names are indelibly printed on the history of the race, Piggott with eight victories to his name (four of them as O'Brien's), O'Brien with six. O'Brien's intentions are unlikely to be known until after the Gallop Stakes has been run at the Curragh next Saturday.

When O'Brien was on hand to greet Golden Fleecer, his most recent winner of 1 Derby 12 months ago, Piggott was uncharacteristically in the stands without a ride, helping the ITV commentators. It was because simply that he had no racing partner and the ante-post favourite at the time, had dropped by the wayside just five days earlier. All winter Piggott's name has been linked with Dunbeath, but with Dunbeath running badly at York last week Piggott has at least got longer in which to get himself reorganised this time.

Teensoo, who has surely set the standard by running over a mile and a half more pertinently on an undulating course, and the 2,000 Guineas runner-up Tolomeo, are two distinct possibilities, but before he courts their connexions he must first be freed by Henry Cecil. The Newmarket trainer still has John French and Pashed Silver, engaged in Wednesday's Schroder. The Predominate Stakes at Goodwood, the last recognised Derby trial in this country.

Zoffany, who was third to

Shearwalk and Dunbeath at Newmarket, the unbeaten Rock's Gate, Russian Robles and Morcora were other acceptors for the same race at the four-day forfeit stage. So, with the Derby in mind, plenty of interest is guaranteed at Goodwood on Wednesday, especially in such an open year.

Explaining Dunbeath's final exit from the Derby picture to me at Newbury on Saturday, Cecil said that he and Piggott had had to ask themselves three questions on their return home from York after Dunbeath's eclipse in the Moccia - Danie's Stakes.

The first question was about his breathing. The second was did he put his heart into the game. Satisfied that neither of those suggestions accounted for his failure, Cecil and Piggott were not convinced that Dunbeath does not stay a yard beyond the mile. The third question, racing career will be planned accordingly and Dunbeath's first race after that distance is likely to be at Royal Ascot where he will cross swords with his talented stable companion Dieris.

Cecil hoped to win the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury on Saturday with Valiary, but in this instance he was upstaged by another Newmarket trainer, Gavin Pritchard-Gordon, thanks to a sterling performance from Noalcoholic and an equally inspired ride from George Duffield. Pritchard-Gordon had plenty to crow about because he also had two winners on his local course.

Believing that the ground was being fought under the far rail, Duffield dashed Noalcoholic out of his stall nearest the stand and gradually tracked across the front of his field to that favoured pitch. Having finally got there he then asked the



The drinks are on Gavin Pritchard-Gordon as Noalcoholic holds the challenge of Valiary in Newbury's Lockinge Stakes (photograph by Trevor Jones)

handsome six-year-old for another sport, but that plenty of daylight-between himself and his nearest pursuers. That was a fine tactical move because this was when the race was won and lost.

Passing the final furlong marker Noalcoholic still had a lead of four lengths and although he was out cold towards the end, so were all the others and Valiary never looked like catching him even though he managed to close the gap to a length and a half.

Pritchard-Gordon said afterwards that he still expected Noalcoholic to be sent to Australia in July by the American owner, William Dupont, in time for the

breeding season to begin in the southern hemisphere. Before that he intends exploiting the horse's current good form either at Epsom or Royal Ascot or both.

Ore, who won the Aston Park Stakes most decisively on his seasonal debut, is also bound for Royal Ascot, where his objective will be the Gold Cup this year instead of the Queen Alexandra Stakes which he won last season.

Right Bank, who started favourite, stayed on just too well for High Hawk and Willie in the £26,834 Oaks d'Autun at San Siro, Milan, yesterday. High Hawk was slightly hampered by Bursusa about two furlongs from home.

Lomond A new beginning at last for Aintree put in shade by Wassl

By Michael Phillips

From Our Irish Correspondent, Dublin

Vincent O'Brien's Derby favourite, Lomond, was taken out of their Epsom list by leading bookmakers after his surprise defeat in the Arling/Cassidy horse trial, 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh on Saturday. Victory went to Shikah Ahmed al Maktour's Wassl, who had the last finished ninth behind Lomond in the Newmarket 2,000 Guineas.

The local stewards and John Dunlop to offer an explanation for the difference in form, and he said afterwards that he had attributed the defeat to being drawn No 1. "Wassl is the sort of horse," he said, "who does best when he has horses around him. Today's race provided a much more satisfactory test, and I was happy to see that my original confidence in his ability was borne out."

Dunlop confirmed that the next race for Wassl would be the Derby. The fact certainly showed no signs of stopping at the end of the testing Curragh mile, run is going that way on a premium on stamina. Wassl is a bay son of the Derby winner, Mill Reef.

A question mark concerning his ability to stay the mile and half miles will centre around the dam's side, for he is out of Hayloft, a Tudor Melody mare whose biggest success came in the Melodist Stakes over five furlongs at Goodwood, however. Hayloft showed that she got a mile as a three-year-old, and she is a daughter of the Nassau Stakes winner, Haymazing.

Lomond had got himself into trouble earlier on when Pat Eddery unsuccessfully attempted to get up on the inside of Crystal Glitters, the French-trained colt who was having come to Epsom, Eddery had to reign back on Lomond and switch him out of four furlongs. Vincent O'Brien is now a keen supporter of this Epsom Derby plan, and he commented about Lomond: "When a colt tries in the last furlong of a mile race, you have to wonder whether he would get to the end. Next Saturday O'Brien will run a couple of potential Derby horses in the Gallinies Stakes. I should not be surprised if his Leopardstover winner, Salmon Leap, is the final choice."

Relief will be widespread that Aintree has been rescued at a cost of £3.4m. Widespread because those who have always wanted it saved for posterity have finally got their way, while those who have become heartily fed up with the long-running on-off saga should never have to be driven to the point of distraction by the fanatics again.

The deal, which is due to be signed on Friday, was finally clinched at a meeting at Cheltenham on Saturday between Bill Davies, who has owned the course for the last 10 years and the Jockey Club's representatives Johnny Henderson, Lord Vestey and Christopher Foster. Originally, the Jockey Club had an option to buy the site and the right to run the race for £4m. When that option expired on May 1 it was clear that they had not been able to raise the requisite amount.

An important part in the last act of this long-running drama was then played by Seagram Distillers, hitherto unmentioned protagonists. They have now undertaken to sponsor the race for the next five years with an option of another five years, but more important with a guarantee of putting a required amount up front to enable the Jockey Club to meet Mr Davies's final, reduced, asking price.

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Law Report May 16, 1983

Move to strike out Chancery Division proceedings fails

Tozer v National Greyhound Racing Club Ltd
Before Mr Justice Walton
 [Judgment delivered May 10]

His Lordship dismissed motions in the Chancery Division by the defendants, National Greyhound Racing Club Ltd, seeking to have proceedings brought against them by plaintiffs in the Chancery Division, Mr William Ronald Tozer and Mr Cecil Law, struck out on the ground that the proceedings ought to have been brought by way of judicial review, under Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, and not by way of proceedings in the Chancery Division for declarations and injunctions.

The plaintiffs' motions, seeking an interlocutory relief of the restoration of their licences to train greyhounds, were granted pending a speedy trial of the actions.

Mr. Justice Walton, for Mr Tozer, Mr Anthony Scriven, QC, and Mr Margaret Smiths for Mr Law, Mr Roger Henderson, QC and Mr Adrian Brunner for the defendants in the Tozer action; Mr J. Grove for the defendants in the Law action.

MR JUSTICE WALTON said that each of the two motions before him sought a declaration and other relief, arising out of decisions made by stewards of the defendants, purportedly in exercise of disciplinary jurisdiction on December 15, 1982, and December 9, 1982, respectively.

In each case the penalty imposed on the respective plaintiff was suspension of his licence as a trainer of greyhounds in each case there were two motions, one by the plaintiff seeking interlocutory relief, and one by the defendants asking that the proceedings be struck out for want of jurisdiction.

The defendants were an ordinary company, incorporated under the Companies Act 1948 to 1976, as a company limited by guarantee, its objects including the discipline and conduct of greyhound racing in England, Wales and Scotland.

The defendants had promulgated rules of racing under which by rule 2 "every person who is the holder of a licence shall be deemed to have read the rules of racing of the NGRC and to submit himself/herself to such rules and to the jurisdiction of the NGRC."

The rules further provided that every trainer should obtain a licence as a greyhound owner and run unless it was in the charge of a licensed trainer; that a greyhound should be deemed to be in the charge of a licensed trainer only while under his or her control, or the control of a licensed kennelhand in respect of that trainer's kennels, or the racecourse where the greyhound was running and under the instructions of the trainer or of a licensed official.

By rule 152 a person was to be deemed to have committed a breach of the rules if the board's stewards in the exercise of their discretion found that that person had been wholly or partly responsible for taking any action expressly or impliedly forbidden by the rules or for failing to take any action which, under the rules, he/she was expressly or impliedly required to take.

By rule 154 it was provided that in any inquiry the stewards should, except where otherwise provided, adopt such procedure as they might in their absolute discretion consider appropriate.

By rule 174 provided that the stewards should have power to make their orders without assigning any reason for so ordering, if they were satisfied under rule 174 (a) (i) *inter alia*, that the person concerned had "in his charge a greyhound which on examination... showed presence in its tissues [etc]... of any substance which by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound."

By rule 178 a person warned off by the NGRC was disqualified and should be excluded from any racecourse, and by rule 181 a person who was suspended or whose licence was withdrawn should not be employed in any licensed capacity or otherwise in connection with NGRC greyhound racing at any premises licensed by the NGRC without prior approval of the stewards.

The defendants controlled most but not all the greyhound racing taking place in this country, and whatever other sources of livelihood might be open to the plaintiffs the stewards' decisions effectively deprived them, albeit temporarily, of their chosen vocation.

A claim made by Mr Henderson, for Mr Tozer, and supported by Mr Hull, for Mr Law, that the defendants were a public body, because they claimed jurisdiction over any person and not merely over those persons referred to in rule 2, found that the defendants committed a breach of the rules, was wholly unsustainable. The defendants had no rights or duties in relation to any member of the public, as such.

Rule 174 (a) (i) *inter alia*, that the person concerned had "in his charge a greyhound which on examination... showed presence in its tissues [etc]... of any substance which by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound."

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Damages cut by 20% for no seat belt

Salmon v Newland and Others
Before Mr Justice Michael Davies
 [Judgment delivered May 11]

When a plaintiff injured in a road accident had been contributorily negligent in failing to wear a seat belt, and the court was satisfied that he injuries would have been substantially less serious if a seat belt had been worn, it was open to the court to reduce her damages by more than the 15 per cent suggested in *Froom v Butcher* (1976) QB 286.

Moreover, the cost of a convalescent holiday following an operation made necessary by injuries sustained in the accident would in some circumstances be recoverable in damages.

Mr Justice Michael Davies so held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment for the plaintiff, Ann Salmon, against the second defendant, Kim Yvonne Hastings, in an action for damages for personal injury sustained by the plaintiff in a road accident in October 1978.

The plaintiff had been a passenger in her husband's car when it had collided head-on with a car driven by the second defendant.

She had suffered a perforating injury to the right eye resulting in total loss of useful vision in that eye, multiple facial injuries resulting in scarring, and a continuing severe anxiety state.

At an earlier trial, primary liability had been established against the second defendant only.

Mr Stuart McKinnon QC and Mr John M. Gray for the plaintiff; Mr John P. Fennell QC and Mr William Blair for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE MICHAEL DAVIES said that he was satisfied that the plaintiff had been contributorily negligent in failing to wear a seat belt and, although there was no medical evidence on the point, that her injuries would have been a good deal less serious if she had been wearing a seat belt.

In *Froom v Butcher* Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had suggested that the appropriate reduction in such cases would be 15 per cent.

His Lordship did not think that that figure was high enough on the facts of this case; the appropriate reduction was 20 per cent.

The plaintiff had had two painful and unsuccessful operations on her eye, which had caused severe disappointment in addition to the anxiety state from which she had suffered since the accident.

In these circumstances it was perfectly reasonable that she should take a convalescent holiday; without it her general condition might have been a great deal worse.

Accordingly, the cost of the holiday was recoverable in damages.

His Lordship awarded £18,500 for pain, suffering and loss of amenity, £54,000 for loss of future earnings and £11,414 special damages, each subject to a 20 per cent reduction for contributory negligence.

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The Times guide to career choice

Escaping the academic trap

Words of comfort from Philip Schofield to those with second thoughts

By their final year, many students in higher education feel trapped by their academic discipline. Some are concerned that their job choice will be limited because of the specialist nature of their subject. Many more, reading subjects which no longer particularly interest them, fear they may be trapped into a career-related career from which they will derive little if any personal satisfaction.

This fear is widespread. One study of university students in their final year found that 80 per cent wished they were reading a different degree subject. This is understandable. From the age of 13 or 14 we are making choices - first O and then A level subjects and then our higher education course - choices which progressively narrow our options.

Are we really trapped by our academic subjects? If so, how can we escape?

In many countries, where most courses in higher education are vocationally oriented, employers expect candidates to have directly relevant qualifications for each specific type of work. Thus the disciplinary trap is very real. British higher education, degree courses in particular, is more academically oriented - subsequent vocational training being given by employers. Therefore most jobs, apart from medicine, veterinary science or those with a high scientific or technological content, are open to those of almost any discipline. Employers are primarily interested in the level of qualification (e.g. a degree) rather than the subject of the qualification.

Although some types of work, mainly in scientific and technical fields, are open only to those with relevant academic subjects, the majority of vacancies are open to those of any discipline. Those who wish to escape from their course subjects can usually do so quite easily.

For instance, in recent months I have talked to graduates in law, microbiology, philosophy, theoretical physics and many others who are working in marketing, geology, history, and engineering graduates in chartered accountancy, and chemistry, economics and modern languages graduates in personnel. On first entering employment, each had undergone a substantial programme of formal training and planned work experience. For their employers, the real value of their academic studies is their acquisition of the intellectual skills of organizing, evaluating and communicating complex information and their degree a measure of their potential to acquire vocational skills.

On the other hand, those who have

taken more vocationally oriented degree courses - especially medicine, veterinary science and B.Ed degrees - will find these are not so widely acceptable outside the relevant professions. Similarly, most diploma and certificate courses are not highly regarded outside their own specialist field. There is a greater risk of being trapped by a vocational course than there is in an academic course.

There are regular demands that British education should become more vocationally oriented. This would certainly relieve employers of much of the very high cost of training. However, such a change could have two serious consequences. First, most of those entering higher education would eventually become trapped by their discipline, and many would accept in occupations which do not motivate or interest them. Secondly, it has proved impossible in any country to anticipate and match the supply and demand for specific disciplines - thus we have surpluses of some and shortages of others. If we reduce the existing high level of transferability from academic to occupational disciplines, we lose a vital flexibility.

Because employers are at present more interested in level of our studies than their content, we are rarely trapped by our subjects, and have a wide variety of career options.

The credit side of banking

Edward Fennell reports on a scheme to launch the high fliers

Competition between the banks to attract the highest calibre graduates is intensifying. Although banking generally, whether in the City or the high street, is heavily over-subscribed, it is clear that only a tiny fraction of the many thousands of applicants meet the stringent recruiting standards. Vacancies are therefore going begging because not enough of the brightest people come forward.

With so much competition the less popular high street banks are having to work doubly hard to secure their share of the city. According to Mr A.J. Fitness, careers adviser at the City University, there is a well established pecking order, with the merchant banks at the top, the international banks second and the clearing banks at the bottom. The clearing banks themselves admit that they have a lacklustre image. "A lot of graduates think that clearing banks mean being in a cage in Wigan, so it doesn't attract the best students that they might apply to," said the graduate recruitment manager of one of the big four.

To strengthen their position in the graduate recruitment market, Barclays last year introduced a new management training scheme which incorporates a two-year masters

course at Henley Management College. Barclays reckon that this will not only give them the edge over the other high street banks but will also put them on even terms with the merchant banks in competing for the best graduates. The graduate scheme is aimed at attracting the men and women who, ultimately, will fill the top 40 management jobs in the bank. This new development means that successful candidates will become assistant managers after a mere two and a quarter years and then go on to Henley.

Whether this new initiative will bring in the right calibre in the right numbers remains to be seen. Last year only 34 of the 45 places were filled, and Barclays refused to compromise on standards. "It is intended as a high quality scheme, and that's what it will be," Barclays say. "The whole point of it is that we get people who can be stretched. We need elastic bands, not damp pieces of string."

In seeking out the very best candidates, Barclays may have in

mind the ex-public school and Oxbridge candidates who still make up the bulk of the merchant banks' recruits. There is a strong feeling among graduate and careers advisers alike that without this traditional blue-chip background there is little chance of getting into the most prestigious banks. Consequently the real menhaden ("the bright comparative student who goes to Essex University") are turning to the international - particularly American - banks who are reckoned to be more open-minded about whom they will accept.

"You don't need the right connection or family background to get into an American bank," said Mr Fitness. "You just need to be a very, very good candidate." The other alternative is to qualify as an accountant or a lawyer or to work for a stockbroker, and then join a bank.

Interestingly, the success of the American banks in swooping up the most able is also causing problems for Civil Service recruiters in their search for administrative trainees. "They are glamorous and offer the chance of foreign travel, particularly to the States," said Mr Fitness. "No wonder they are popular."

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HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY

Department of Physics

"NEW BLOOD" AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LECTURESHIPS

Applications are invited for the following lectureships funded under the U.K. "New Blood" and Information Technology schemes. Applicants for the former should normally be under 35 years of age. The posts are available from 1 October 1983.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

The Department of Physics has major research projects in the field of electrical and electronic devices, particularly optical materials, photoconductive materials and other fields of interest, with an emphasis on instrumentation, theoretical and experimental research, and the development of new industrial products and processes. It is a co-holder of the Department of Industry EPIC Award for such collaboration.

"NEW BLOOD" - Lectureship in Electronics and Instrumentation (REF. 22/83)

The successful candidate will have overall responsibility for electronics within the Department and will also be responsible for the development of electronic devices based on Departmental research. A PhD and a proven ability to undertake an academic and/or industrial research project in the field is essential, while expertise in infrared devices would be an advantage.

"INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" - Lectureship in Optoelectronics (REF. 23/83)

The lecturer will lead the experimental programme in the major Nonlinear Optics project, which is funded by the Science Research Council. This project aims to develop our recent discovery of giant optical Kerr effect in liquid crystals and related phenomena. The lecturer will be responsible for the design and construction of the experimental apparatus, and will also be responsible for the theoretical and experimental work in this area.

A PhD and a substantial research record in laser or optoelectronics is essential. The successful candidate should also have a proven ability to undertake an academic and/or industrial research project in the field of optoelectronics. The successful candidate should also have a proven ability to undertake an academic and/or industrial research project in the field of optoelectronics.

For both these posts informal letters of enquiry may be directed to Professor C. R. S. Jones, Head of Department of Physics, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS.

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (REF. 34/83)

Applications are invited from graduates with a good honours degree in Electrical Engineering or Computer Science, preferably to be given to applicants with a higher degree and/or relevant industrial experience. Experience in one or more of the following areas is desirable:

Engineering, architecture, parallel processing, software engineering, VLSI design, digital communications, computer networks.

Duties will include lecturing at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and conducting and supervising research in a specialist field in the general area of Information Technology.

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES

Lectureship in Languages (REF. 25/83)

Applications for the "New Blood" appointment are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a Lectureship in the Department of Languages. The Department, which is specialised in the teaching of French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Chinese, offers a stimulating and challenging environment for the successful candidate. The post is available from 1 September 1983. Salary will be within £8,375-£13,505 per annum. Further particulars may be obtained from the University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ. In reply please quote Ref. No. 49/83.

Salary will be on the scale £8,375 - £13,505 (under review). Applications forms and further particulars for each of the above posts are available from Heriot-Watt University, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1ST, to whom enquiries should be returned by 31st May 1983.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

APPOINTMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Application are invited for two posts, these being the first allocated to a planned restructuring of the Department, as follows:

LECTURER IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

The successful candidate will be required to pursue research and undertake teaching in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The successful candidate will be required to pursue research and undertake teaching in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The successful candidate will be required to pursue research and undertake teaching in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

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Aerobatic fighter pilot killed in crash

A pilot was killed yesterday at an aerobatic display when his second World War fighter aircraft crashed in front of nearly 40,000 spectators.

The American Mustang fighter had thrilled the crowd at Barton airfield, on the outskirts of Manchester, with a 10-minute series of passes and rolls executed as it passed low over a copse of trees. Then the engine appeared to cut out and the aircraft nose-dived into a farm field, narrowly missing a farmhouse.

Mr John Connor, an off-duty fireman, ran to the spot and dug into the wreckage with his hands to reach the pilot but when he finally broke into the smashed cockpit he found the pilot was dead.

The accident occurred during the Manchester Air Show which staged 40 aerobatic acts.

Officials at first thought the pilot was the owner of the Mustang, Mr Robert Mitchell of Sutton Coldfield, but minutes later they discovered there had been a last minute switch of pilots. Mr Mitchell had been scheduled to fly the aircraft but bad weather had delayed his arrival from Biggin Hill where he had taken part in the air show.

The dead man was Mr Michael Watkins, aged 45, of Dunchurch, Rugby. A Department of Trade inquiry is to be held.

The two-day Biggin Hill air show in Kent ended last night with police reporting heavy traffic in spite of the rain, but no incidents. The police said the wet weather and greasy roads in London and the South-east had not deterred visitors to the show, which attracts audiences of up to 100,000. "Everything has gone very smoothly", a spokesman added.

India 'to fit Exocets to Jaguars'

Delhi, (AP) - India is to use the French Exocet AM39 anti-ship missile on its British-built Jaguar deep penetration aircraft following an agreement with France, the United News of India reported.

The news agency quoted defence sources as saying that Exocet-fitted Jaguars would have "a new punch and could very effectively be deployed for maritime strike roles as well."

Ten Tors tortures youngsters

The twenty-fourth annual Ten Tors expedition across Dartmoor at the weekend claimed many casualties. More than 500 of the 2,400 entrants, aged between 14 and 19, were forced to drop out by injury and the harsh weather; one boy, Ronald Wheeler, of Eastbourne, was burnt by an exploding gas cylinder which destroyed a tent; and another, Gary Kent of Plymouth, was found suffering from hypothermia after being separated from his colleagues.

The Army, which organizes the two-day event, says it is a test of endurance and a chance for young people to taste adventure. It is run by teams of four over three courses of 35, 45 and 55 miles. The photographs, by Nick Rogers, show the start and a Junior Leader helping Clare Goster, aged 15, through the special handicapped event, which was added in 1977.

The first team to complete the 35-mile course was Exeter School Combined Cadets. Exeter's Operation Dartmoor was first home in the 45-mile event; and RAF Halton first in the 55-mile event.



Britain wants deal on rebate before election

Continued from page 1

Herr Hans-Dietrich, the West German minister who hosted the weekend meeting, said afterwards that it was agreed by all that he could say everyone had been "encouraged" by the discussions on the difficult question.

At the Brussels meeting an attempt would be made to "define problems and take decisions in certain areas" in order to make it possible for a deal to be struck by the Stuttgart summit on June 6.

But the whole subject, he admitted, was "highly sensitive in some countries". He did not say too much about the consultations over the week to come "for fear of risking everything".

The essential argument is between Britain, which wants its money now, and those countries led by France, which insist on there being real progress on a new way to finance the community, before agreeing a figure for a British rebate.

Negotiations on the long-term deal will be long and hard unless Britain and West Germany make a major concession and agree to raise the ceiling on the amount of money that can legally be claimed by the community.

Raising the ceiling is important for countries with strong farming interests, which are worried that their farmers would suffer if reforms to the

finances are agreed within the existing cash limits.

Britain, which is leading the crusade to hold down farm spending, is fundamentally opposed to any increases in the community's income until a better way of controlling the common agricultural policy is agreed.

Agriculture ministers meet in Brussels again today in another attempt to agree farm prices for 1983. Mr Genscher gave a warning yesterday that it would be very serious if they failed.

With regard to Central America the foreign ministers agreed that tensions were increasing. It was felt that they should look to attempts by the Mexican-led Contradista group to start talks in the area as the best hope to ease the problem. No statement was approved by the meeting on the point.

Had one been issued it could have embarrassed the United States, which does not support the Contradista initiative.

The 10 foreign ministers also expressed satisfaction over the Lebanese-Israeli draft accord for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

The ministers also said the EEC could do nothing implying acceptance of the situation in Poland while the Polish people continued to reject the system.

On Afghanistan, they condemned the brutal attack against the civil population in recent attacks north of Kabul.

Letter from Portland Small-town America on parade in Maine

They like a parade in Portland. Nothing much ever happens there, save for the chaos of hideous winters, followed by the summer deluge of tourists, and parades give the feeling that something is actually going on.

Last weekend, though, something truly momentous happened, an event so auspicious that there was a parade to top all parades. It was the day they opened the Portland Museum of Art.

It is a splendid edifice, and it would be churlish to dwell on the fact that right now it is rather short of works of art to fill its acres of empty white walls. The fact is that small-town America was celebrating for all it was worth and showing that there really are at least two Americas - the brash aggressive cities, and the rest.

The celebrations went on for hours. The local band, the clowns, the ice cream men, and the hot dog stalls all took to the streets to acknowledge something very dear to the community. When the carnival reached the museum, where it seemed that half the town was assembled, there were speeches galore and everybody applauded heartily, something that simply could never happen in big-town America.

Could one imagine a New Yorker taking time out to listen to the mayor opening a museum?

There is a reason for the museum being held so dear. Portland is somewhat ashamed of itself for destroying so much of its heritage and ignoring its history, and there is an intense feeling that what is left must be saved.

It is the same throughout the United States - the belated realization that what does not necessarily have to be bulldozed.

Out on Portland Head, where a lighthouse commissioned by George Washington still sends a beam scurrying across the Atlantic, there is a ruin of a beautiful old mansion that has clung to the cliff edge through scores of vicious winters.

In its way, the ruin is a symbol of how Portland is saving itself from sinking into a total lethargy about its past. For years the people ripped up ancient streets and knocked down old buildings and went berserk with road-building when "Detroit fever" struck after the turn of the century.

The old Union Station in downtown Portland, a nineteenth century granite masterpiece, made way for a boring shopping complex in the 1960s. At about the same time the old post office became a car park.

In the 1920s and 1930s it was fashionable to take off all the intricate masonry from buildings and clad the walls with wood or aluminium, a practice that has left a legacy of may look-alike houses with all the architectural delicacy of a Dagenham council estate.

Only in the 1960s when the heart of the city seemed to stop beating with the demise of Union Station did a group of women get together in somebody's parlour and start to talk about saving historic Portland. Landmarks was born, and set about teaching people what Europe has known for so long - that ruins can have a function.

The new museum of art is therefore important to the soul of Portland. Its centrepiece exhibit is a selection of works by the most famous, locally-born artist, the nineteenth century, Winslow Homer. The paintings had been absent for years, but came home as a gift from a multimillionaire Portland whose philanthropy also created the museum.

Last year Portland was 350 years old, and the people paraded all over town. It provided an impetus for people to study their history and the Portland Press Herald helped with a series of special historical supplements.

The town has boomed and bust many times. It has been called Casco, Casco, and courtesy of the English, Falmouth.

The town grew again from the ashes, only to be partially wiped out by fire in 1866. Today it is not an especially handsome place, nor a rich one. The state of Maine, encumbered by wicked winters and, it must be said, by the insularity of many of its rural-minded people, is almost the poorest state in the land.

But there is a richness there, a love of the outdoors and an instinctive rejection of the standards of big-city America. Only in a place like Portland could something like a new museum bring the citizens out to celebrate with each other with such unabashed enthusiasm.

Christopher Thomas

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen visits the 2nd Infantry Division at Imphal Barracks, York, 12.

New exhibitions
Rainy Days at Brig O'Turk, drawings by John Everett Millais. Fine Art Society, 12 Great King Street, Edinburgh. Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (from today until June 7).
Edinburgh Guild of Weavers.

Spinners and Dyers exhibition. City Arts Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (from today until June 4).

Paintings, prints and drawings by Robert Bar, George Room Gallery, Subscription Rooms, Strand, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (from today until May 28).

Watercolours and oils by Courtenay Theobald, Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury. Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5, closed Sun (from today until June 3).

Exhibitions in progress

From Quill Pen to Microchip - The Glasgow Herald 1783 to 1983. People's Palace Museum, Glasgow. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 5 (until Dec).

80 Years On: Treasures from Galleries in the North-west acquired with the help of the National Art Collection Fund. City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester. Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun (until May 28).

Old World New World: Antiquities for the collection of Sir Henry Wellcome, City Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until 1983).

The Art of the Print: Traditional and modern printing techniques. E. M. Flint Gallery, Lichfield Street, Walsall. Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45 (until May 28).

Paintings by Frederick Brill, Morris Kestelman & Frederick Gore, Norwich School of Art Gallery, St George Street, Norwich. Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until May 28).

Recent acquisitions of paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture. Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester. Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Fri (until June 5).

The Wrestling Boys: Oriental and European ceramics. Buryley House, Stamford, Lincs. Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Oct 2).

Dress of the Year 1963-1983. Museum of Costume, Assembly Rooms, Bath. Mon to Sat 9.30 to 6, Sun 10 to 6 (until Oct).

Talks, lectures
Shellfish and their Allies, by I. T. Buryan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.
Art and Architecture in Ancient Macedonia, by Prof. Manolis Andronikos, Natural Philosophy Lecture Theatre, Aberdeen University, St Machar Drive, Aberdeen, 5.15.

Music
Organ recital by Peter Underwood, Coventry Cathedral, 1.05.

Anniversaries
John Sell Cotman was born at Norwich, 1782. Alfie Balakirev, composer, died (May 29 new style), St Petersburg, 1910.

Christian Aid Week
Christian Aid Week starts today. Donations may be sent to: Christian Aid, PO Box 1, London, SW9 8BH.

Our address
Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to:
Cathy James, TTIS, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

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Nature notes

Skylarks are nesting in the grass or the young corn; the female sits, while the male sings overhead, often hovering and soaring for five minutes at a time. Their nestlings grow more quickly than those of other songbirds, only staying in the nest for nine days. Male skylarks, like wrens, build several "cock's nests", deep but flimsy, in the brambles; the female may choose one of them, or build her own. Little ringed plovers are back at gravel pits and dry reservoirs like collared doves and black redstarts, they are a species which has invaded Britain since the war. Ringed plovers, which normally breed on sandy shores, have begun to follow their smaller relatives to these inland sites.

The first hawthorn flowers are opening, rather late this year, their sweet, pungent scent hangs over the hedges. Rowan, and whitebeam flowers are poised to open. Cow parsley and Oxford ragwort begin to dominate the country roadsides. The pink spikes of the horsetail have dropped back into the grass, and in their place the second stage of the plant is growing, with its thick, ferny leaves. In the woods, wild strawberries flower alongside yellow archangel, a harmless nettle-like plant with buttery-yellow blossoms. D.M.

Illegal parking
From today, the Metropolitan Police will be fitting wheel clamps to cars parked illegally in central London. Drivers of immobilized vehicles will have to pay £19.50 to have the clamp removed, in addition to the usual £10 parking fine.

Bond winners
Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes at £100,000: 5BZ 085764 (the winner comes from Luton); £50,000: 17WW 763743 (Hertfordshire); £25,000: 7PS 685527 (Surrey).

The pound
Bank Bank
Buy Sell
Australia S 1.85 1.76
Austria S 28.40 26.40
Belgium F 70.75 75.75
Canada S 1.98 1.90
Denmark Mk 14.22 13.50
Finland Mk 8.92 8.42
France F 11.96 11.36
Germany DM 133.50 125.50
Greece Dr 11.14 10.54
Hong Kong \$ 1.26 1.19
Italy Lira 335.00 224.00
Japan Yen 362.00 262.00
Netherlands Gld 4.48 4.26
Norway Kr 11.60 11.00
Portugal Esc 168.00 148.00
South Africa Rd 4.97 4.83
Spain Pta 214.50 204.50
Sweden Kr 12.17 11.55
Switzerland Fr 3.52 3.14
USA \$ 1.62 1.55
Yugoslavia Dnr 130.00 123.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only.
Retail Price Index: 327.9.
London: The FT Index closed up 3.1 on Friday at 671.7.
New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 4.35 on Friday at 1218.75.

Roads

London and South-east: M3: Lane closures between junctions 3 (light water) and 4 (Frimley). M1: Lane closures between junctions 7 (M10 turn off) A282: Dartford Tunnel approach road. Roadworks at junction with A226 (Blue Star roundabout); avoid at peak periods.
West and West: A39: Lane closures at Inver, Devon. M5: Northbound lane closures between junctions 11 (Cheltenham) and 12 (Gloucester). A5: Temporary lights on Holyhead to Betws-y-coed road at Llandudoch.

Midlands and East Angles: M1: Lane closures at junction 16 (Northampton); junction 16 closed except exit from southbound carriageway and access to northbound lanes. Temporary signals at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. A1: Lane closures on Stangate Hill, near Alconbury, Cambridgeshire.
North: A1(M): Southbound lane closures at Aylsham, Lincoln. Co Durham: A1/A6136: Various lanes closed for flyover construction on Catterick-pass, N Yorks. A650: Bradford Road, Leeds, at M1 interchange: only one lane at A1.

Scotland: M9: Lane closures between junctions 5 and 7 (Grangemouth and Kincardine Bridge). A90: Lane closures at Forth road bridge.

The papers
Commenting on last Friday's violence at Cardigan colliery, one newspaper said: "The closure of the pit was announced, the Daily Express says: 'Fanatics, louts and bullies will use any excuse to commandeer the street and to spearhead their political opponents... This is the unacceptable grimace of Marxism: these are the people Mr Foot would be ready to treat with should he form a government'."

The Observer, commenting on Mrs Thatcher's popularity at a time of record unemployment, said "people must feel she is doing something right", and suggested that the Alliance election manifesto is described as "extraordinarily reasonable". The Alliance is well-fitted to play an active role in government but can only hope to achieve a break-through into big-time politics by the adoption of proportional representation. "The time may well not be ripe for the middle-of-the-road prospectus the Alliance offers", the paper said.

According to the Sunday Mirror, however, the Alliance manifesto is "a lonely half-way house between Tory and Labour policies, which neither one thing nor the other". The News of the World appeals to politicians to "stop slagging off each other and get down to brass tacks". "We do not need to be told with every other word that inner that the leaders of all parties but their own are a bunch of muddled, incompetent, diabolical and dangerous nitwits - we will make up our minds about that, thank you."

Weather

A depression SW of the British Isles will drift NE to be centred over Devon.

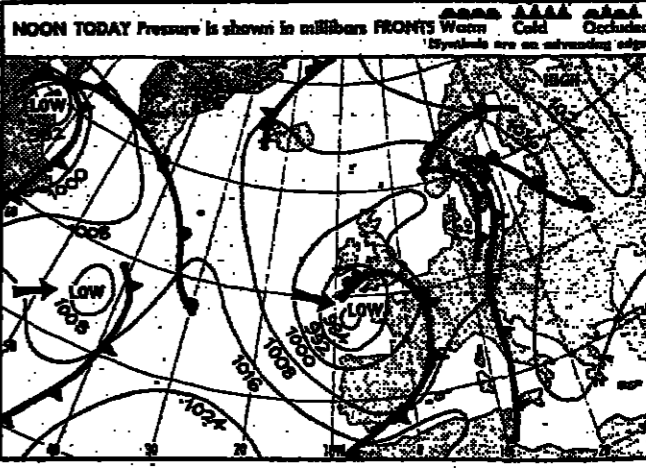
London, SE, central E England, East Angles, E Midlands: Rather cloudy, showers outbreaks of rain, clearer later; moderate; max temp 11 to 13C (into 55F).
E Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Fife, NE Scotland, Isle of Man: Mist and fog patches early; showers developing later, some prolonged; wind variable light becoming E to SE moderate; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
W Midlands, Wales, NE England: Showers or longer periods of rain, some light drizzle; wind E or SE light or moderate; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
Channel Islands, SW England: Cloudy rain at times, heavy showers; wind S to SE, moderate or fresh, becoming variable; light max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
North: A1(M): Southbound lane closures at Aylsham, Lincoln. Co Durham: A1/A6136: Various lanes closed for flyover construction on Catterick-pass, N Yorks. A650: Bradford Road, Leeds, at M1 interchange: only one lane at A1.

Central Highlands, Angul, NW Scotland: Sunny periods, a few light showers developing; wind NE, light or moderate; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Continuing unsettled, sunny intervals and showers, windy and rather cool.
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind SE, moderate or fresh, backing E and increasing strong, perhaps gale force; sea rough to very rough, becoming rough to very rough; visibility poor, rain, fog or drizzle; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
English Channel (E): Wind SE, strong, perhaps gale force; sea rough to very rough; visibility poor, rain, fog or drizzle; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
North Sea: Wind E, moderate or fresh, locally strong in S; sea rough to moderate, but rough in S.

Lighting-up time
London 5.17 pm to 4.37 am
Edinburgh 5.10 pm to 4.28 am
Manchester 5.34 pm to 4.26 am
Birmingham 5.35 pm to 4.26 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; H, thunder.
Belfast 12.54 54.00 12.54
Birmingham 12.54 54.00 12.54
Cardiff 12.54 54.00 12.54
Dundee 12.54 54.00 12.54
Edinburgh 12.54 54.00 12.54
Glasgow 12.54 54.00 12.54
Liverpool 12.54 54.00 12.54
London 12.54 54.00 12.54
Manchester 12.54 54.00 12.54
Newcastle 12.54 54.00 12.54
Nottingham 12.54 54.00 12.54
Plymouth 12.54 54.00 12.54
Reading 12.54 54.00 12.54
Sheffield 12.54 54.00 12.54
Southampton 12.54 54.00 12.54
Stoke-on-Trent 12.54 54.00 12.54
Sunderland 12.54 54.00 12.54
Tottenham 12.54 54.00 12.54
Wolverhampton 12.54 54.00 12.54
Wrexham 12.54 54.00 12.54

Highest and lowest
SATURDAY: Highest day temp: Cardiff, 17.5C (63.5F); lowest day temp: Cardiff, 10.5C (50.9F).
SUNDAY: Highest day temp: Cardiff, 17.5C (63.5F); lowest day temp: Cardiff, 10.5C (50.9F).

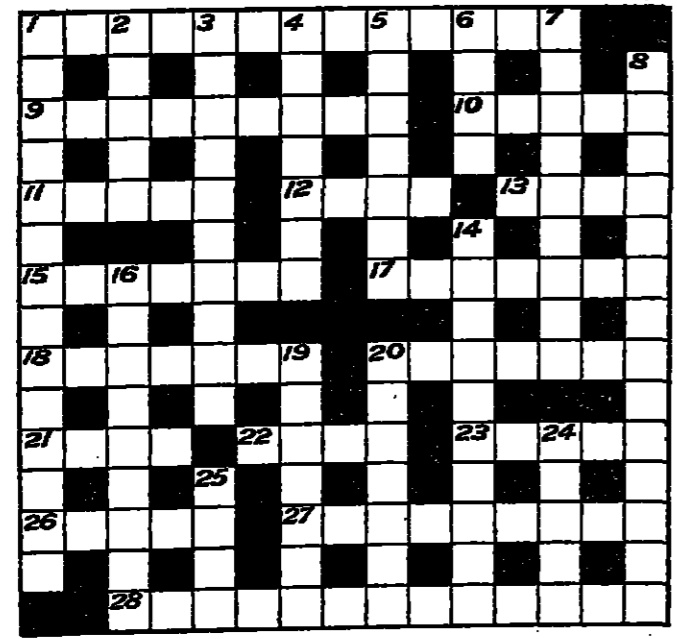


High tides
London Bridge 4.30 AM HT 5.18 PM HT
Aberdeen 4.22 AM HT 5.10 PM HT
Belfast 4.27 AM HT 5.15 PM HT
Cardiff 4.32 AM HT 5.20 PM HT
Dundee 4.37 AM HT 5.25 PM HT
Edinburgh 4.42 AM HT 5.30 PM HT
Glasgow 4.47 AM HT 5.35 PM HT
Liverpool 4.52 AM HT 5.40 PM HT
Manchester 4.57 AM HT 5.45 PM HT
Newcastle 5.02 AM HT 5.50 PM HT
Nottingham 5.07 AM HT 5.55 PM HT
Plymouth 5.12 AM HT 6.00 PM HT
Reading 5.17 AM HT 6.05 PM HT
Sheffield 5.22 AM HT 6.10 PM HT
Southampton 5.27 AM HT 6.15 PM HT
Stoke-on-Trent 5.32 AM HT 6.20 PM HT
Sunderland 5.37 AM HT 6.25 PM HT
Tottenham 5.42 AM HT 6.30 PM HT
Wolverhampton 5.47 AM HT 6.35 PM HT
Wrexham 5.52 AM HT 6.40 PM HT

Around Britain
Sun Rain C F Max Fm Showers
St Andrews 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Aberdeen 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Belfast 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Cardiff 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Dundee 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Edinburgh 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Glasgow 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Liverpool 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Manchester 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Newcastle 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Nottingham 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Plymouth 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Reading 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Sheffield 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Southampton 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Stoke-on-Trent 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Sunderland 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Tottenham 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Wolverhampton 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Wrexham 1.5 10 15 50 Rain

Abroad
MEDIAN: c, cloud; f, fog; h, haze; r, rain; s, sun; th, thunder.
Algeria 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Amsterdam 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Antwerp 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Austria 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Belgium 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Berlin 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Brussels 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Budapest 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Cairo 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Cardiff 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Copenhagen 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Dortmund 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Dubai 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Edinburgh 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Frankfurt 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Geneva 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Hamburg 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Helsinki 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Hong Kong 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Istanbul 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
London 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Lyon 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Madrid 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Manchester 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Milan 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Moscow 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
New York 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Oxford 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Paris 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Prague 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Rome 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
St Petersburg 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Stockholm 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Tehran 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Tokyo 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Vienna 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Warsaw 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Washington 1.5 10 15 50 Rain
Zurich 1.5 10 15 50 Rain

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,130



- ACROSS**
- Articles of feminine make-up (3,5).
 - Is devoted to the right type of Romance literature (4-5).
 - No idol, he, promoting peace etc (5).
 - The subject of this painting could be wallflowers (5).
 - Foreigner takes a legal right (4).
 - Just the woman to show the flag (4).
 - For paying lump sums in gold? (7).
 - Food custom in South Africa (7).
 - Conveyance for one passenger rather than a team (4-3).
 - Artist's cap is so eccentric (7).
 - The eastern half of Disney's musical pot-pourri (4).
 - Name of one preceding the vehicle (4).
 - This vessel may return to still waters (5).
 - Lamb wrote of such children (5).
 - He has certainly gained ground (9).
 - The folly of getting knocked out (13).
- DOWN**
- Wise "pacifists" their inhabitants? (7,7).
 - Note down in Bucks conspicuous at the present time (5).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,129 will appear next Saturday